

“Year of the Dog” starts well (page 3)

Falcons, chickens, & avian flu

Falconing, along with factory farming, cockfighting, bird-shooting, wild bird trafficking, and keeping caged song-birds, has emerged as a factor in the increasingly rapid global spread of the deadly H5N1 avian influenza.

As the March 2006 edition of **ANIMAL PEOPLE** went to press, 92 humans in seven nations had died from H5N1. More than 30 nations had experienced H5N1 outbreaks since 2003, 14 of them since February 1, 2006. Hit, in chronological order, were Iraq, Nigeria, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, Slovenia, Iran, Austria, Germany, Egypt, India, France, and Hungary.

More than 200 million domestic fowl have been killed in mostly futile

efforts to contain H5N1, according to the United Nations Food & Agriculture Organization—almost entirely because of the persistence of practices long opposed by the humane community.

Falconing became implicated when five trained hunting birds died from H5N1 at a veterinary clinic in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Saudi agriculture ministry officials confiscated and killed 37 falcons who were kept at the clinic.

“The virus might have been introduced by illegally imported falcons from China and Mongolia early in the season,” the moderators of the International Society for Infectious Diseases posted to the society’s ProMED online bulletin board.

ProMED zoonotic disease moderator Arnon Shimshony called for “enhancing the alertness of authorities responsible for control of international trade in avians, with special attention to captive birds.

“Earlier H5N1 incidents related to such trade have been recorded in Taiwan, Belgium, the U.K., and probably elsewhere,” reminded Shimshony, who is a member of the Koret School of Veterinary Medicine faculty at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

(continued on page 17)



Falcon at the Kalahari Raptor Centre. (Kim Bartlett)

Crows & parrots outwit exterminators

DARIEN (Ct.), SAN FRANCISCO

—Crows and parrots, believed to represent the apex of avian intelligence, evolved in an environment favoring agility and efficiency in the lightest possible package.

Any air war strategist could therefore predict the outcome in conflict between the bird brains and exterminators with thoughts of lead.

Foes of crows with shotguns, fireworks, lasers, and recorded distress calls took the most murderous toll on crows they could during the winter of 2005-2006, on battlefields from upstate New York and the Philadelphia suburbs to the Rocky Mountains.

Most of the crows, however, are still there, or at least not very far away.

Attempted parrot purges have been no more successful, even though the entire U.S. wild parrot population is believed to be probably about 20,000, not more than 50,000 by the highest serious estimates. About 7,000 parrots, mostly monk parakeets and conures, live in California, with at least 2,000 monk parakeets in Florida.

USDA Wildlife Services claimed in



(Marc Johnson)

January that a week of nonlethal hazing had driven all but 500 crows out of Auburn, New York, where as many as 33,000 congregated a few weeks earlier. Complaints about crows meanwhile erupted in Syracuse, Marcellus, Cazenovia, and Cortland, noted Syracuse *Post-Standard* staff writer John Stith.

Then the 60 participants in the third (continued on page 12)

ANIMAL PEOPLE

News For People Who Care About Animals

March 2006
Volume XVI, #2

Drought tests Kenyan and Zimbabwean hunting policies

NAIROBI, HARARE—The vultures inspecting drought-parched Kenya and Zimbabwe have counterparts in the corridors of national capitols, watching to see whose wildlife management mode will fail first.

Kenya, since banning sport hunting in 1977, has made non-consumptive wildlife watching the nation’s second largest and best known industry.

Much of the faltering Zimbabwean economy is based on trophy hunting.

The Kenyan model requires attracting large numbers of tourists, who in good times employ thousands of hotel staff, drivers, guides, and souvenir vendors.

The Zimbabwean model draws far fewer people, who seek much less by way of accommodation, minimizing the need for up-front investment in infrastructure. Yet trophy hunters spend considerably more per person than wildlife-watchers.

The prospect of high return from low investment has tended to encourage other African nations to emulate Zimbabwe rather than Kenya.

“Theoretically, hunting is a fantastic way to preserve very large eco-systems,” Laikipia Predator Project director Lawrence Frank told a conference of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and World Conservation Union in Johannesburg in January 2006, “but the practicalities of getting that money to the little guys who are paying the costs is a huge issue.”

The conference was called to address the loss of African lions from more than 80%

of their former range. Attendees were critical of Kenya—whose lion population has been poached to the verge of extirpation from many regions—for prohibiting lion hunting.

The conference closed by issuing a joint statement favoring trophy hunting “as a way to help alleviate human-lion conflict and generate economic benefits for poor people to build their support for lion conservation.”

This was an endorsement of the Zimbabwean economic model. But economic good times ended in Zimbabwe more than five years ago.

The Kenyan economy, despite a crippling drought in 2000, as well as the current drought, continued to improve. Relative prosperity helped opponents of trophy hunting to persuade Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki to veto a hunting authorization bill that cleared the national legislature in December 2004, pushed by wealthy landowners seeking to capitalize on Zimbabwean instability.

But hard times in much of Kenya, despite 5% economic growth in 2005, may have increased the inclination of politicians to try to cash in on wildlife before losing it, after already losing visitors who prefer not to see animals dying from thirst and starvation.

The political tendency to think short-term is why Youth for Conservation founder Josphat Ngunyo sees as a priority an ongoing campaign against exporting 175 Kenyan animals to the newly opened Chiang Mai Night Safari Zoo in Thailand—a deal concluded by President Kibaki himself.

(continued on page 9)



Wolf. (Robert L. Harrison)

THE WEST AIN’T BIG ENOUGH FOR US & WILDLIFE, CLAIM RANCHERS

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK—The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service on February 2, 2006 recommended removing gray wolves in the northern Rocky Mountains from the federal endangered species list, 10 years after the first of more than 60 wolves translocated from Canada were experimentally released into Yellowstone National Park and central Idaho.

As of 2004, there were officially 153 wolves in Montana, 260 wolves in Wyoming, and 422 wolves in Idaho. There are now nearly 1,000 wolves in the three states, said federal wolf recovery coordinator Ed Bangs. The species recovery targets were met in 2002, Bangs said.

“Federal agents and livestock owners have legally killed more than 300 wolves in the region that were confirmed or suspected of having preyed upon livestock,” wrote John Miller of Associated Press. “In 2005, federal wildlife agents investigated 93 rancher complaints, with wolves confirmed or suspected of having killed 181 sheep, 18 calves, six cows, and 11 dogs. That compares to 2003, when wolves were blamed for killing 118 sheep, 13

calves, and six dogs.”

The delisting would include all wolves in Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, the eastern third of Washington and Oregon, and part of north-central Utah—everywhere that wolves from the Yellowstone region are known to have wandered, except Colorado.

“In 2004 a young, radio-collared female wolf from Yellowstone was found dead near Idaho Springs, Colorado,” recalled *Denver Post* staff writer Kim McGuire. “A year later, the state wildlife commission approved a plan to manage packs that come into Colorado. That plan says the state will let wolves roam where they choose, but urges killing wolves who prey on livestock.”

Polls indicate that about two-thirds of Colorado residents favor wolf recovery. Defenders of Wildlife in September 2005 offered to compensate Colorado ranchers for livestock losses if reintroduction proceeds.

Defenders of Wildlife has paid ranchers more than \$500,000 for confirmed livestock losses to wolves in connection with the Yellowstone region reintroduction and the (continued on page 18)

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March 2006

Dear Partner,

Brooklyn hid in a pile of rocks, among the ground squirrels, where we have a feeding station for abandoned dogs.

She was born in the wilderness, and has never been around people. Her struggle was so intense, she cannot begin to understand what “help” means. There is no help in the wilderness . . . one mistake would cost Brooklyn her life.

Her mom and litter mates are long gone . . . she was the only survivor. She lived in an area full of predators that can attack from the ground or from the air . . . day or night. Always fearful, this little cat hugged the ground until she found our feeding station. I don’t know how long she lived off our dog food, but it was at least many months.

I do know, over the years, that I’ve spotted coyotes, eagles, hawks, owls, turkey vultures and rattlesnakes where Brooklyn grew up. And Brooklyn heard the shrieks of pain, from the other animals, as they were killed and eaten by these hungry predators.

Last night when I took her picture for you, I aimed my camera into the holding cage where Brooklyn is staying . . . until she has all her shots and she gets spayed. You can see her confusion.

She knows we are helping her . . . feeding her, keeping her safe and warm. And she’s in a hospital room where other cats run around and play between treatments . . . so Brooklyn knows she’s in a good place.

But she can’t understand being fed . . . without working for her

meals. She can’t understand how she is able to be warm without finding a hole in the ground to curl up in . . . and she can’t begin to fathom what all our love and kindness means. She wants to run from it, because she’s afraid of what she doesn’t understand.

But Brooklyn also senses that we are looking after her . . . so she remains confused . . . torn . . . because the lack of struggle, the abundance, is so utterly foreign to her.

Brooklyn is now a D.E.L.T.A. Rescue cat. That means no more suffering alone in the wild, where her parents were abandoned. She will be safe and loved and fed and cared for . . . for the rest of her life. She will even have the one thing she has secretly wanted more than anything else . . . other cats to talk to.

AND SHE DOESN’T HAVE TO EARN IT! No . . . she doesn’t have to be a lap cat to “deserve” all of this. She can be either a cat’s cat, or a people cat . . . we will shower her with love in either case.

This is Brooklyn’s time . . . it’s a celebration of her courage, and of her gift to us . . . her life. But time passes so quickly, and we know that so well . . . by watching our animals get old, so fast!

It won’t be long before I’ll see Brooklyn at the other end . . . an old cat, skinny and on medications for some chronic condition or another, and on the final “countdown” to leaving us to mourn for her . . . yet another empty space where our loved one was a beautiful being just moments before.

At that moment, at the end, that’s when I realize more than ever, just how important this mission has been . . . to have given a whole lifetime to an animal who had none.

Please keep this profound mission alive. Send your best gift today.

For the animals,

Leo

Leo Grillo, founder

D.E.L.T.A. Rescue

PO Box 9, Dept AP, Glendale, CA 91209

+ Attention: Rescuers and Shelters +

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Write today to get your free video, and then build a house your dog will truly love and enjoy. Send to: **D.E.L.T.A. Rescue, P.O. Box 9, Glendale, CA 91209.** Or call us at **661-269-4010** and get it faster!

Editorial feature

Chinese “Year of the Dog” begins with good omens

The Year of the Dog, observed throughout the regions of Asia sharing cultural affinity to China, has rarely been auspicious for dogs.

1910, for example, brought famine and a rise in dog-eating to Korea, following a Japanese invasion. In 1922 the Chinese Communist Party declared that dogs are social parasites. The notoriously dog-hating Mao Tse Tung became head of the Chinese Communist Party in 1934, began his rise to national rule in 1946, and in 1958 purged both dogs and songbirds, after the Great Leap Forward brought famine on a globally unprecedented scale.

The 1994 Year of the Dog predictably began in Beijing with a dog massacre. The *Beijing Youth News* estimated that as many as 100,000 dogs inhabited the city when the killing started. The *Beijing Evening News* pretended that dogs found by the police were taken to “an animal shelter run by the Public Security Ministry,” but China bureau correspondent Jan Wong of the *Toronto Globe & Mail* learned otherwise.

Chief dog-killer Li Wearui boasted to Wong that his team beat to death 351 dogs in 10 days. His assistant Fei Xiaoyang preferred strangling dogs with steel wire. The *Beijing Legal Daily* published a photo of police dragging a dog to death behind a jeep.

The dogcatchers made a point of killing dogs in front of their people, then collecting fines. “Our policy is to annihilate dogs,” Li said.

For the first time since Mao seized power in 1949, however, Beijing dog-keepers in 1994 resisted the killers, hiding dogs, smuggling them outside the city for temporary safe-keeping, and refusing to inform on each other.

Trying to build support for dog-killing, the Beijing government claimed in April 1994 that dogs had bitten 30,000 people during the preceding year. By October the claimed 1993 total was up to 52,000. As the ratio of reported bites to dogs in most cities worldwide runs at about one bite per 150 dogs, Beijing had either an exceptionally aggressive dog population or grossly inflated data.

Beijing tried to contain the rising public enthusiasm for dogs by promoting a dog museum at the foot of the Great Wall in Badaling. Officials believed that the public would tire of dogs, if exposed to them for very long. The park opened with 150 purebreds, imported from all over the world. Visitors soon wanted dogs of their own.

In Shanghai, wrote *New York Times* correspondent Philip Shenon, a government survey found that dogs ranked fourth among most the coveted possessions of Chinese citizens, ahead of cars, behind television sets, refrigerators, and washing machines.

Alarmed, the Shanghai administration tried to eradicate pet dogs by confiscating as many as possible for use in biomedical research.

Back in Beijing, officials acknowledged by mid-September 1994 that despite six months of deliberately vicious dog-purging, the dog population had increased to 190,000, believed to be 3.5 times as many as inhabited the city in 1986. Somewhat surprisingly admitting defeat, Beijing changed tactics, and in October 1994 proposed dog licensing—at a fee three times higher than the average annual wage. The fee was cut by a third before taking effect. The annual renewal fee was cut in half. The fees have since then been lowered again.

The *Beijing Evening News* soldiered on against dog-keeping. Nationally, the editors claimed rather implausibly, 100 million dogs ate enough grain to feed 40 million people, of about 80 million Chinese people said to be suffering from malnutrition. As China very rarely acknowledges having any malnutrition, this claim drew particular notice.

Dogs bit a million Chinese people per year, the *Beijing Evening News* continued.

“Communist Party members should never do anything that could harm the masses or society—for example, keeping dogs,” wrote one Dong Wenzhe.

That made dog-keeping a symbol of resistance to the repressive status quo.

Jittery officials again purged dogs at the end of the 1994 Year of the Dog.

Dog massacres have continued here and there ever since, most often amid rabies outbreaks in the vicinity of the huge factory farms in the southern and coastal regions where dogs are raised for meat and fur.

Yet in hindsight, 1994 was the year when dogs won an increasingly prominent place under the table in China, instead of just on top of it, in pots.

More dogs than ever are eaten in China. Estimated annual consumption is believed to have nearly doubled since 1994, to about 10 million, according to Animals Asia Foundation founder Jill Robinson. The industry became more lucrative after Chinese dog and cat meat merchants several years ago discovered and almost completely took over the U.S. and European markets for cheap fur trim.

But there are now believed to be more than one million pet dogs in Beijing alone, about 410,000 of them licensed. Throughout China, there are an estimated 150 million dog-keeping homes, and up to 300 million total pet dogs, according to the highest official esti-

mates. That would be almost five times as many dogs as there are in the U.S., which has the third largest dog population of any nation.

The U.S. and Costa Rica have the most dogs relative to humans, among nations with good current data, with ratios of slightly more than one dog per five people. However, China has not less than one dog per nine people, and would have one dog per 4.3 people if the 300 million estimate is accurate. Even at the lowest estimate, China has 10% more dogs than India, and almost as many dogs per capita as Britain, France, and Australia.

This suggests that dog-keepers are among the fastest-growing interest groups and potential political forces in China—and that attitudes toward either eating dogs or selling their pelts may rapidly change.

Now denying dog massacres

Indeed, attitudes toward dogs in general have already changed with impressive speed. In the northern port city of Tianjin, for example, 510 people were bitten during the Year of the Dog celebrations, from January 29 to February 5, while teasing dogs to make them bark, as a purported harbinger of good fortune. Rather than blame the dogs, the Tianjin Municipal Disease Control Center took the opportunity to educate the public about dog behavior, the Xinhua News Agency reported, praising dogs as “a loyal and obedient animal.”

Instead of boasting about an alleged dog massacre going into this Year of the Dog, as his predecessors did 12 years ago, Beijing State Council Information Office director Guo Weimin on January 12, 2006 denied media reports that 1,000 dogs had been killed in Guangzhou, the capital city of Guangdong province.

According to the Xinhua News Agency, Guo Weimin “told a press conference that some cities have recently stepped up the management and supervision of illegally kept or vagrant dogs,” including “a one-month drive to enhance the management of raising, selling and abandoning dogs, in a bid to reduce the possibility for the occurrence of rabies and the number of stray dogs. “Nevertheless,” the Xinhua News Agency continued, “he denied that there had been a mass killing of dogs in the streets.”

Instead, “According to Guo, dog-raising has caused some social problems in Guangzhou recently. Local health departments reported that at least two or three people had been bitten and wounded by dogs each day, and this might give rise to rabies, a disease caused by dog bite.”

To put that into context, Guangzhou is the hub of the part of China where dogs (and cats) are most commonly eaten, and most plentifully raised for human consumption. Rabies vaccination is strictly required of pets throughout China, but “meat dogs” are not vaccinated. Nearly 3,000 Chinese people die from dog-transmitted rabies per year, almost entirely in proximity to dog meat farming.

Two weeks after Guo Weimin held his press conference, ANIMAL PEOPLE received an e-mail from Jia Meng, chief member society development officer for the Chinese Companion Animals Protection Network, who wanted us to know that a cover feature published in the Guangzhou edition of the newspaper *Nan Fang Du Shi Bao* had called for “stopping eating cats and dogs. This is the first time the citizens’ voice of anti-consumption has been spread to such a broad extent,” Jia Meng wrote.

Nan Fang Du Shi Bao claims a circulation of 1.56 million.

A comparably remarkable example of recent Chinese reporting about dogs appeared in the *Shanghai Daily* on December 30, 2005.

“The approaching Year of the Dog is good news for people selling pet puppies, but is raising concerns among those who take care of strays,” the *Shanghai Daily* opened, in an expose of pet overpopulation reading much like those published in U.S. newspapers.

“People who sell dogs in wet markets, pet stores and online say sales have been booming as the end of the year approaches,” the *Shanghai Daily* continued. “Some local pet markets say dog sales are up by about 30% from normal, and their stores are packed with people looking to pick up a puppy.”

Shanghai Pets Aid Center cofounder Zhou Min was extensively quoted, inveighing against impulse buying and the Chinese equivalents of puppy mills.

“Many puppies sold in some local markets are taken from out-of-town underground sources,” Zhou Min said. “Bad conditions on the long journey cause many of them to become deeply sick or to be in poor condition. The dog dealers have their ways to make puppies look energetic in front of potential customers. I am worried,” Zhou Min said, “that some of their owners will choose to leave them on the street in order not to pay expensive medical bills for their treatment. They could also be abandoned after the new owners lose interest or patience in looking after them.”

Reuters affirmed from Shanghai a month later that “Abandoned animals are the dark side of the explosion in pet ownership across the country in recent years.”

Reuters quoted both U.S. expatriate Carol Wolfson, who recently founded a foster/adoption program in Shanghai called Second Chance Animal Aid, and Shanghai Pet Association director Xia Jun, 24. Xia Jun represents a generation of Chinese youth who have grown up in single-child families and have found companionship in animals.

“Some so-called animal protection organizations are not so altruistic,” Reuters alleged, citing no examples. “Many have been found to be selling the cats and dogs they gather to restaurants.”

Historically, that is what dogcatchers have done in China. Yet even in Shanghai, reputedly the city where the most dogs are eaten, strays are now at large, apparently because dog meat demand is down.

BBC News Beijing correspondent Rupert Wingfield-Hayes in late January 2006 visited a dog meat farm “in the countryside an hour from Beijing.”

Wingfield-Hayes found the anticipated horrific conditions. He also found a surprise.

“This business is no good any more,” the proprietor lamented. “There’s no money to be made in it.”

Continued Wingfield-Hayes, “I was soon to find out why. For my next stop I wanted to visit a dog meat restaurant, but finding one proved trickier than I had imagined.

“For two days my assistant scoured Beijing.

“‘Isn’t there one behind the Korean embassy?’ I asked. ‘No,’ she said. ‘That’s closed.’ ‘What about the one over by the World Trade Centre?’ ‘That’s closed too.’

“Finally we did find one, way out in a grimy suburb on the north side of the city.”

Dog-eating was never very common in Beijing, or in most of the Mandarin-speaking parts of China. However, Cantonese and Korean immigrants to Beijing opened as many as 120 dog meat restaurants around the city during the late 1990s, mostly serving fellow immigrants. Now their business is imploding under social pressure.

“I want to smash every dog restaurant in the city,” Beijing Pet Nation Dog Academy groomer Li Xuefeng told Wingfield-Hayes. “But really I don’t think it’s necessary. The dog restaurants are disappearing fast. Young Chinese have very different attitudes towards animals. They really love dogs.”

“It’s just not right that we eat dogs. Dog-eating was never part of our tradition,” pro-dog activist Ou Yang told Jehangir S. Pocha of the *San Francisco Chronicle* foreign service. “As China develops, we should develop our society the right way and refine our civilization.”

Wrote Pocha, “In an effort to win Chinese hearts and minds, Beijing dog lovers recently started a petition to ban dog meat from inside the city’s Science and Technology Museum, which hosted a special exhibition to celebrate the dog/human relationship. Visitors

(continued on page 4)

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“Year of the Dog” begins with good omens *(from page 3)*

were greeted with giant blow-up photos of puppies in ingratiatingly cute poses and a red banner that proclaimed, ‘Dogs are human companions.’”

The Year of the Dog news from other Asian nations is mixed, most ominously in South Korea. In theory, dog and cat eating was banned in South Korea 15 years ago, but the law has never been enforced, chiefly because it was too inspecific to be enforced.

For more than five years now, South Korean activists have fought stealth attempts by dog and cat meat proponents to legalize dog and cat eating by introducing a new animal protection law which nominally strengthens the existing law, but distinguishes between dogs and cats kept as pets and those raised for meat. In addition, some legislators and administrative branches of the South Korean government are reportedly trying to structure the new law so that humane law enforcement, such as it is, will be funded by inspection fees collected from the dog and cat butchers.

Only about 6% of South Koreans eat dogs and cats, about the same percentage of Americans who hunt, but as with hunters, the participants are disproportionately older men, who dominate the national political, regulatory, economic, and communication infrastructure.

“The Philippines is one of the few Asian countries where progressive laws exist to protect animals from cruelty and abuse, including the implementation of a law in 1998 forbidding the eating of dog meat,” recently wrote Animals Asia Foundation founder Jill Robinson.

“However, the Philippine Animal Welfare Society has alerted us that this law is now under threat. PAWS informs us that there is a proposal to legalize the dog meat trade in Baguio province. Whilst on the surface this appears to be an attempt to preserve local ‘culture’ and ‘tradition,’ PAWS is concerned that the real intent of some officials is to open a wholesale dog meat industry.”

Specifically, after receiving a complaint from PAWS volunteer and actress Sharmaine Arnaiz that dog meat was openly advertised on a Baguio City restaurant menu, PAWS President Nita Lichauco on December 27, 2005 asked Baguio City veterinarian, Bridget Piok to enforce the law. Piok informed Lichauco that a proposal to legalize selling dog meat was already far advanced by the regional government.

Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo fueled speculation that dog-eating might be legalized by asking a series of questions about dog meat during a December 27 state dinner at her official residence in Baguio City. The conversation was disclosed four days later by *Philippine Inquirer* reporters Vincent Cabreza and Tonette Orejas.

The Philippine law already allows members of the indigenous Igorot tribe to eat dogs, an opening widely if illegally exploited by dog meat dealers.

Public response to disclosure that the dog meat industry might be fully legalized was overwhelmingly negative. On January 14 the Calabarzon police signaled that the law is still in effect and being enforced by intercepting two jitneys carrying 70 dogs from the Quiloquilo village, Padre Garcia, Batangas,

to slaughterhouses in Baguio City and the Ilocos region. Four traffickers were arrested.

Opposition to the dog meat trade increased on February 1, after Animal Kingdom Foundation officer-in-charge Suzanne Llanera disclosed the death of a four-year-old girl from rabies after neighbors who were holding a drinking party gave her a bite of dog meat.

“Ressia Mae Ederia of Barangay Molobolo, Cauayan, Negros Occidental suffered from high fever and exhibited symptoms of rabies shortly after eating the meat,” her father Renante Ederia told Margaux C. Ortiz of the *Philippine Inquirer*. The girl died on December 13.

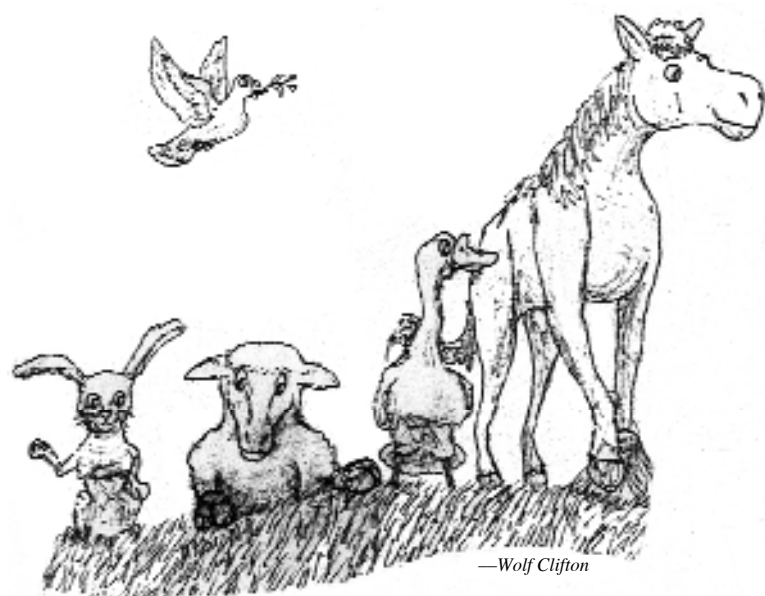
Veterinarian Winston Samaniego told Ortiz that rabies might have attacked the victim through a tooth cavity, moving rapidly through exposed nerve endings to her brain.

Confirmation that a clandestine dog meat industry persists in Japan, decades after overt dog-eating disappeared, came in mid-December 2005 when an 82-year-old man was arrested for dumping the heads of about 30 butchered dogs in the outer moat of the Tokyo Detention House.

“The man said he imported the severed heads and bodies of dogs from China and sold all body meat,” the Kyodo News Agency reported. “The heads were left unsold.”

The good news in that episode is that whatever dog-eating continues has apparently dwindled to a remnant trade involving only the elderly, whose source of dogs is abroad.

We hope to see the dog and cat meat and fur industries elsewhere in Asia dwindle comparably in coming years.



—Wolf Clifton

Hoarding cases

In declining to hear the Jenny Jones hoarding case [as described in “U.S. Supreme Court endorses seizure of hoarded animals,” March 2006], the Supreme Court did not uphold the right of humane societies and animal control agencies to seize animals from alleged hoarders and charge convicted hoarders for their care. It did not uphold anything. The Court simply refused to hear the case, as it refuses to hear all but a small percentage of cases brought to it.

—Steve Wise

Boston, Massachusetts
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The Editor replies:

Refusing to hear a case means allowing the law, ruling, or precedent to stand, rejecting the grounds for challenge.

That the Supreme Court refused to hear the Jones case was noteworthy, because it was a case based on a claim of property rights, along lines that the Supreme Court has taken seriously in some recent environmental cases.

Fortunately for humane prosecutors, the Supreme Court did not see fit to review the issues as they pertain to live animals.

Also discussed in the article in question was a June 2005 verdict in a comparable case by a three-judge panel from the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati, which now stands as the most recent direct precedent. The appellate judges unanimously upheld the dismissal of a similar lawsuit brought by the subjects of a May 2001 animal neglect investigation led by the Shelbyville-Bedford County Humane Society, of Shelbyville, Tennessee.

If you know someone else who might like to read **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, please ask us to send a free sample.

Hunters, Herders

Thank you so much for your review of my book *Hunters, Herders, & Hamburgers: The Past & Future of Human/Animal Relationships*. Your observation that I am “more interested in stimulating thought than in clinching arguments” is right on the money. I hope your review will encourage some of your readers to take a look at the book. Everything I say in it may not suit them, but I tried to ask fresh questions on a number of issues so perhaps they will find, as you say, something stimulating.

—Richard W. Bulliet
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Well put

The bottom line of your January/February 2006 editorial “Ghosts of 9/11 & December 7 haunt animal advocacy” was well put, not that a lot in this movement will take it to heart. I must keep it around and make reference to it in the future.

—Steve Hindi
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The bottom line:

“Convincing the world to treat animals with moral consideration requires activists to keep the high ground, not from fear of arrest, but from the likelihood that appearing to be irrational or dangerous will obscure the message and lead to failure.”

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Temple Grandin

Anyone who cares about animals can only be glad to learn of Temple Grandin’s assessment in your January/February 2006 “Letters” section that animals being slaughtered at killing facilities audited by “restaurants that hold a plant to numerical standards” fall and vocalize distress less, and more often are unconscious when their throats are cut.

But when Grandin refers to “outright animal abuse” at “some plants outside the audit system,” she seems unaware that *all slaughter is outright animal abuse*. That current laws do not define it as cruelty to animals is another matter: our society is based on outright animal abuse. That is why all sentient beings need legal rights—something no amount of animal welfare campaigning and industry regulating can ever provide. Giving up on the animals by saying we can “never” end raising animals for food supports the status quo of human supremacy.

Grandin and other apologists oppose animal rights, no matter how much they may “care.” Every animal slaughtered without slipping or crying out should have lived much longer, in benevolent surroundings never experienced; never should have been forced onto a truck; and never should have been born or hatched in the first place.

—David Cantor
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More on Grandin

Kim Bartlett’s December 2005 review of Temple Grandin’s *Animals in Translation* is a much needed critique of the author. Temple Grandin deserves no “admiration” for designing equipment which “allows animals being killed for meat to suffer less than they would otherwise.”

Not one less farm animal has died because of Ms. Grandin’s modifications of the architecture of slaughter.

I was in Auschwitz this past summer with a group of survivors. Their German captors sent

friends and families to the “show-ers” in a manner intended to reduce their fear. They were given soap, told that they were simply going to wash up after work. The result was genocide.

Grandin is doing no more for cows than giving them the illusion that everything is all right. Her work, intentionally or not, provides a cover for the corporations that kill these creatures and for people who continue to eat them.

—Wayne Johnson, Ph.D.
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The Editor replies:

The three basic means of reducing the universe of suffering, in any sphere, are reduction, refinement, and replacement.

In the area of food production & consumption, reduction and replacement are obviously the two approaches that achieve the most dramatic and immediate results, but even the fast-rising popularity of vegetarianism and veganism, and the tendency of younger meat-eaters to eat less, have not actually reduced the numbers of animals going to slaughter, due to human population growth.

That leaves refinement as the area in which the most can be

done to reduce the suffering of the animals who are caught up in the system here and now. In the areas of developing refinement methods and technology, few if any have done as much as Temple Grandin.

Even if her work saved only one minute of fear and pain for each of the 161 million hooved animals sent to slaughter in the U.S. last year, 30.6 years of animal suffering were prevented. If you look at the total time that hooved animals spent in loading, transport, holding, and slaughter, Grandin may have eased or prevented 1,323,288 years of animal suffering.

This is an accomplishment worthy of respect and appreciation.

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Panics drive eastern European dog purges after exposés of pelt trade

OSAKA, BUCHAREST, SOFIA—Twice in three weeks fate linked Japan and central European street dogs.

Because a Bulgarian circus family became stranded in Kawachi-Nagano, Japan, Animal Refuge Kansai on February 18, 2006 pledged to invest the equivalent of about \$85,000 U.S. in Bulgarian dog and cat sterilization work.

Because Japanese businessman Hajime Hori, 68, bled to death on January 29, 2006, after a dog bit his thigh on a Bucharest street, severing his femoral artery, Bucharest and other Romanian cities captured and killed dogs more aggressively in February 2006 than at any time since the 2001 street dog purge ordered by then-Bucharest mayor Traian Basescu—who now heads the Romanian government.

The ARK pledge to help Bulgarian sterilization efforts came about six weeks after Bulgarian SPCA president Yordanka Zrcheva and Doctors for Animals spokesperson Rumi Becker alleged to Katy Duke and Elizabeth Day of the London *Telegraph* that corrupt Sofia dogcatchers are covertly selling the pelts of up to 10,000 dogs per year.

ARK founder Elizabeth Oliver attended the 1999 International Companion Animal Welfare Conference in Sofia, and has long felt moved to help the animals there. The opportunity came after she learned from an Osaka veterinarian about a Bulgarian couple and their 21-year-old daughter, found living in a snow-covered steel shipping container, with their 38 trained dogs and cats in a second container.

"Two years ago, as part of a circus troupe, they came to Japan and performed in many places," Oliver said. "Their journey ended in November 2005 when the company went bankrupt and the owner disappeared with the proceeds. The promotion company balked at having to pay either their back salaries or the cost of returning their animals to Bulgaria.

"As time passed the situation for the animals became desperate. While the dogs could exercise outside the container, the cats were contained in dark cages without exercise or sunlight. The promotion company was obviously playing for

time," Oliver told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. "I think if we hadn't gotten the Mainichi Broadcasting Service to feature their story on its news channel *Voice*, the family would have remained in that terrible situation until mid-March, when their visas expired, and they would have been forced to leave Japan without their precious animals.

"Public response was overwhelming," Oliver continued. "Within a week we collected more than enough money to cover the cost of their return to Bulgaria. Even after we closed the account, money came in 'for the Bulgarian animals.'"

The Kawachi-Nagano city government and police also took an active interest in the situation.

"Since then," Oliver said, "the promotion company has paid all the costs of the transport of the animals to Bulgaria, plus other incidental costs like new cages. I had told the family that we would pay all the costs, but at the eleventh hour all this happened, so we have been left with a sizeable amount of money. I am determined that ARK should not receive even one yen from this, and that the money should be used, as intended, for the benefit of Bulgarian animals."

Details of the ARK investment in Bulgaria were in planning as **ANIMAL PEOPLE** went to press.

No miracles in Romania

Romanian animal advocates could only wish for comparable miracles.

"Animal welfare people think the dog who attacked the Japanese man was an owned pit bull terrier," as the fatal incident occurred in a neighborhood where illegal dogfights reputedly occur, "but most people think it was a stray dog," Dutch volunteer Nathalie Klinge of FPCC-Romania told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. "Mayor Adrian Videanu announced that the city will catch all the dogs and put them to sleep within 72 hours. Everyone who is involved with stray dogs in Romania is working like hell to do something about it.

"The Federatia Nationala Protectia Animalelor,

founded by FPCC and Vier Pfoten, made a proposal to Videanu in December 2005 to solve the stray dog problem in Bucharest through neutering," Klinge continued.

"Vier Pfoten had a similar agreement with the former mayor, and spent \$1 million on it," until Basescu "refused to cooperate any more and started catching and killing dogs. Until now Videanu says he hasn't made up his mind," Klinge said. "Meanwhile the killing goes on."

E-mailed Bucharest art designer Violetta Penda, "The victims are the old, the harmless, the inoffensive, the peaceful dogs, not the dangerous ones, because the dangerous dogs are hard to capture."

Videanu "doesn't know what to do or is waiting to see which way the wind blows," said FPCC-Romania founder Robert Smith. "We will try to push him to accept our proposals by placing newspaper advertisements and by seeking cooperation with animal control. The animal control director, Simona Panaitescu, admitted to me that her dog catchers are illiterate, poorly paid, and unmotivated, and that the dog-loving population of Bucharest hides their dogs or bribes the catchers. She agreed they need a new image, new personnel, and new credibility. She said she could not return dogs to the streets, but would not mind if we did it for her. But I am not going to repeat my mistake in Campina," Smith declared, recalling his first Romanian sterilization project, "or Vier Pfoten's mistake in Bucharest in April 2001, when Basescu cancelled the neuter/return program and embarked on his useless killing campaign. We have to control the shelters.

"Bucharest has spent over five million euros since April 2001, and was killing on average 1,350 dogs per month even before the current extermination campaign, for a death toll of about 80,000 dogs in 46 months," Smith said, "yet still the streets of Bucharest are full of dogs."

The FNPA perspective was not unanimously accepted, even among animal advocates.

(continued on page 6)

Is Belgrade rabies panic covering for dog /cat skimmers?

BELGRADE—A dog pogrom started in Belgrade, the capital of Serbia, just before the January 2006 escalation of dog-killing in Bucharest.

The Belgrade pretext was an alleged rabies outbreak that appeared to have been proclaimed by animal control officials trying to keep a lucrative fiefdom.

"Belgrade activists obtained heavy documentation," e-mailed **ANIMAL PEOPLE** reader Jelena Zaric, "that instead of using donations for animals' sake, dogcatchers were killing the animals. There is no need to remind you," Zaric opined, "that Serbia is known for dog and cat fur, and for inhumane treatment of stray animals.

"On January 27," Zaric continued, "Belgrade animal advocates obtained information that city officials would announce a rabies outbreak in two days, after Belgrade activists filed a complaint about illegal activities that surround a couple of city officials and one leading animal welfare organization.

"On January 30, city officials declared a high state of alert, saying that rabies emerged with a fox who was found dead in Novi Beograd," a Belgrade suburb.

"So far, there is no proof that the fox existed, nor that any fox had rabies," Zaric said on February 1. "It's interesting that the guy who reported the dead fox had the same last name as the city veterinarian. They claim they don't want to show the fox, who is now decomposing, as they found her 20 days ago.

"A very aggressive media campaign created panic and violent responses," Zaric said. "People walking their pets in parks were stoned, chased, and threatened."

No Serbian rabies outbreak was reported to any of the international authorities who track zoonotic diseases.

Two weeks later, Zaric updated, "Nothing seems to be happening, except that a judge sent inspectors to investigate."

Zaric forwarded web sites indicating that the Belgrade dog killing started five months after the mayor pledged in September 2005 to introduce free microchipping and anti-rabies vaccination of pets.

Q: Why can't this veal calf walk?



A: He has only two feet.

Actually, less than two feet. Twenty-two inches to be exact. His entire life is spent chained in a wooden crate measuring only 22 inches wide and 56 inches long. The crate is so small that the calf can't walk or even turn around.

Most people think animal abuse is illegal. It isn't. In veal factories, it's business as usual. "Milk-fed" veal is produced by making a calf anemic.

The calf is *not* fed mother's milk. He's fed an antibiotic-laced formula that leads to diarrhea. He must lie in his own excrement—choking on the ammonia gases. He's chained with hundreds of other baby calves suffering the same fate.

Tainted Veal

According to the USDA, sulfamethazine (a known carcinogen), oxytetracycline, penicillin, neomycin, streptomycin, and gentamycin have all previously been found in veal.

Doesn't the USDA prevent tainted veal from being sold? Absolutely not. The USDA itself admits that most veal is never tested for toxic residue.

The industry claims that the drugs used in veal have been approved by the FDA. But don't buy it. The fact is: Illegal and unapproved drugs have been widely used in veal calves.

Veal factories maximize profits for agribusiness drug companies because they are a breeding ground for disease. To keep calves alive under such torturous conditions, they are given drugs which can be passed on to consumers.

It doesn't have to be this way. And with your help, it won't be. *Please join us.*

YES! I support HFA's National Veal Boycott. Factory farms must be stopped from abusing animals, misusing drugs, and destroying the environment. Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution of:

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Panics drive eastern European dog purges after exposés of pelt trade (continued from page 5)

“The guilty dog has not been caught. The assumption that it was a pit bull is hard to sustain,” claimed SPCA Romania president Ana Halmageanu. “All such dogs are registered with the police,” she said, “and were the first to be checked. It is a mongrel,” she insisted, “previously a stray dog, who has an owner.

“The authorities no longer accept neutering and returning dogs to the streets,” Halmageanu continued. “For the moment, neutering campaigns are a waste of money, as the dogs will be captured and killed.”

Instead, Halmageanu argued for a “general census of dogs with owners in order to be able to prevent and punish abandonment; mandatory neutering of all dogs with no pedigree, down to the last rural household; limitation of the number of litters a bitch can produce to four in a lifetime, only one per year; setting up as many dog shelters as possible, having a maximum capacity of 300 dogs; and diminishing importation by introducing a three or six-month quarantine,” which Halmageanu contended “would balance demand and supply, so more dogs could be adopted.”

Deputy mayor Razvan Murgeanu told Agence France-Presse that the incident “shows the extent of the stray dog problem, which we inherited when the houses of Bucharest residents were destroyed by the Communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, forcing people to leave their dogs in the streets. I love animals,” Murgeanu claimed. “I have a dog myself. But the time has come to take radical measures, however painful, and eliminate the strays.”

An estimated 50,000 dogs remain on the streets of Bucharest, inflicting about 6,000

bites per year, or eight a day. This is a sixth as many dogs and 25% as many bites as were claimed in 1996, when former actress Brigitte Bardot funded the first high-volume sterilization program in the city. Many are true street dogs, with no homes or human caretakers, but half or more live in the courtyards of particular apartment blocks, as “community pets,” with regular caretakers who are not allowed to take them inside because government-owned apartment buildings do not admit dogs.

Disillusioned by corruption and broken promises from city hall, the *Fondation Brigitte Bardot* withdrew from Bucharest in 2004. Many other foreign organizations came and went in the interim, finding Romania in general and Bucharest in specific to be difficult environments. Only Vier Pfoten, based in Austria, is still prominent in Bucharest.

Yet the outside efforts bought time for thousands of dogs while local groups emerged to represent them, with increasing public support but still little influence over official policy.

“Impounded dogs are kept without food or veterinary care, in wet cages, in sub-freezing weather. Volunteers are not accepted in the pounds,” said Aura Maratas, founder of the Fundatia Daisy Hope, one of the few private shelters operating within inner Bucharest. “The authorities do not want to allow animal protection associations to assist in capturing, feeding, sterilization, or euthanasia, even if this is what the law recommends.”

Worst, said Maratas, “the visiting hours are from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., Monday through Thursday, and on the weekends the

Left: Dogs at the Pallady pound in Bucharest. The photographer asked to not be identified.

pounds are closed,” so that reclaiming or adopting dogs is extremely difficult for people who hold jobs or attend school.

“My phone is ringing all day long. People are crying to save the dogs they have sterilized and cared for. The dogcatchers take everything,” Maratas finished.

“The catchers are working around the clock,” agreed Asociatia Natura founder Carmen Milobendzchi. “Many people are asking us to accommodate their dogs,” at least for the duration of the panic, “but where? We haven’t enough space.”

“At the Pallady pound an average of 50 dogs are killed daily, while only 5 are adopted,” Sara Turetta of CaniBucharest told ANIMAL PEOPLE. “100 dogs per day are killed at Chiajna, the bigger pound, on the outskirts of Bucharest. Because Chiajna is far from downtown and hardly reachable due to very poor streets, fewer people go there to look for their dogs or to adopt one.”

Turetta said she had found homes in Italy for some of the doomed dogs.

Gains in Galati

Roxana Radu of ZooTerra cited the southeastern city of Galati as an example for Bucharest. There, Radu said, “Vier Pfoten Romania has sterilized 18,000 animals, with private funds, with the cooperation of the municipality.”

From 2002 through 2004, Vier Pfoten Romania sterilized 10,872 dogs in Galati, according to data Vier Pfoten gave to Robert Smith, with no 2005 total available.

“Vier Pfoten will come again to Galati in mid-February,” e-mailed Grigoire Corina of the local organization Help Labus. “According to the latest data, there are in Galati approximately 11,200 stray dogs, 14,000 courtyard dogs, and 3,000 living in apartments. In total, we can talk about 28,200 dogs, one dog to 10 citizens.”

Including suburbs which are part of the contiguous city but beyond the city limits, Galati has about 14,000 strays, many of them congregating at dumps, and 16,000 courtyard dogs, said Dana Costin, cofounder of

ROLDA, whose shelter is outside the city.

ROLDA has also sterilized hundreds of dogs, bringing the non-reproducing part of dog population of Galati to at least 37% and perhaps as high as 58%, depending on the amount of sterilization done by private individuals. Even the high estimate would be short of the 70% needed to bring about a population drop, but within striking distance.

“ROLDA and [California-based partner] Romania Animal Rescue, in collaboration with City Hall Galati, on January 15 started a program of free dog and cat sterilization,” wrote *Viata Libera* editor Anca Spanu Tudor. “All Galati citizens can benefit from free spay/neuter for the cats and dogs they care for, at the Medviolet Clinic operated by Dr. Ileana Gheorghita.”

Visiting foreign veterinarians are expected to assist in April and May.

“Stray dogs have become a priority of Galati mayor Dumitru Nicolae,” continued Tudor, who said Nicolae wants to add sterilization facilities to the two Galati shelters and expand the shelters’ combined capacity from 434 to 1,500.

The Bucharest panic spread to other cities, especially after a young woman was severely injured and expected to die as result of a dog pack attack on Valentine’s Day in the village of Appraiser, near the Black Sea port of Constantia.

“Cluj will soon be a place of dog slaughter,” wrote Cluj resident Miron Arcas. “There is only one animal shelter in Cluj, consisting of 26 cells, and 800 street dogs outside, according to the officials. There are 2,000 street dogs in the streets, according to the Animal Protection Association.”

But in Arad, on the Hungarian border, “things are going on as usual,” Animed Arad founder Claudiu Iosim told ANIMAL PEOPLE. “The dogcatchers still trap and kill stray dogs, as they have been doing for five years now, but not at a larger scale due to the recent events.”

Iosim said Animed Arad had sterilized 240 dogs and cats in 2005, but hoped to sterilize 500 in 2006.

—Merritt Clifton

How popular were pit bulls once upon a time?

While few doubt that pit bull terriers have long been bred as fighting dogs, most discussion of pit bull traits or regulation meets claims such as that “The American pit bull terrier and its cousins had a well-deserved reputation as a loyal and trustworthy family pet in the early years of this century,” (from *canismajor.com*), and that “By World War I the American pit bull terrier had become a well loved and desired dog,” (from *americanpitbullregistry.com*).

Newspaper Archive.com now provides a quick way to check the record, via 28.9 million pages of text-searchable microfilmed newspapers from the 18th century to today. This includes the classified dogs-for-sale ads.

ANIMAL PEOPLE recently ran searches on 34 dog breeds and breed types for the years 1900-1950, limiting each search to U.S. newspapers only, and adding the word “dog” to each search to avoid pulling up entries for

“husky” football players. St. Bernard the Roman Catholic monk, boxers and pugs who were human prizefighters, etc.

Two breeds hit the *NewspaperArchive* search engine ceiling of 314,027 mentions, and are asterisked accordingly in the table at right. Huskies in the second quarter of the 20th century were at a peak of popularity, after their heroics in delivering diphtheria serum to Nome over the Iditarod Trail in 1927. St. Bernards appear to have been very popular as well.

The exercise was skewed toward finding more pit bulls rather than fewer, since multiple searches were run to try to find pit bulls under a variety of different names; since searches were not run on every recognized dog breed; since not all mentions of huskies and St. Bernards were returned; and since several always rare breeds such as Basenjis were included in the sample, to establish a lower-end benchmark for comparison with the most

popular breeds and breed types.

The sum of pit bull terriers, Staffordshires, and American bulldogs came to 34,770: 1% of the sampling of nearly 3.5 million breed-specific mentions of dogs.

Breed	Mentions
Husky	*314,027
St. Bernard	*314,027
Setter	299,801
Collie	281,258
Poodle	264,301
Boxer	261,086
Spaniel (all)	232,107
Greyhound	209,687
Beagle	204,799
German shepherd	187,843
Retrievers	127,768
Pug	82,374
Dachshund	75,584
Basset hound	63,925
Newfoundland	62,438
Doberman	61,685
Pomeranian	55,469
Whippet	47,252
Pekingese	46,580
Great Dane	46,108
Dalmatian	38,498
Afghan hound	19,956
Jack Russell	19,711
Akita	15,925
Pit bull	19,573
Staffordshire	15,168
American bulldog	29
Mastiff	16,427
English bulldog	11,597
Corgi	13,548
Coonhound	5,819
Basenji	4,896
Malamute	1,050
Rottweiler	672

TOTAL: 3,420,988

Along with almost every article from back editions, the ANIMAL PEOPLE web site offers translations of key items into French & Spanish ...Lewyt Award-winning heroic & compassionate animal stories...vet info links...handbooks for downloading...

SPAY/USA

FINDS A LOVING HOME

Not only do some pets need new homes, so do the programs that help them.

North Shore Animal League America has welcomed the SPAY/USA program into our headquarters in Port Washington, N.Y.

Every year in the United States, millions of unwanted dogs and cats are euthanized because not enough homes are available for them. Lowering this horrific statistic is the mission of both SPAY/USA and North Shore Animal League America. Both groups will now work together under one roof to stop

this trend. SPAY/USA is a national referral service that offers help to anyone who needs assistance finding affordable spay/neuter services in their area. The program consists of a network of over 7,000 top-notch veterinarians and 1,000 sterilization programs and clinics nationwide. Veterinarians wishing to participate and have your program listed on our site please visit www.spayusa.org or write Spay@nsalmerica.org

Spay/USA Veterinarian Participation Form

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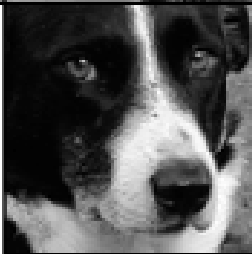
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For more information and online registration, please visit

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Film star gets year in prison for poaching

JODHPUR—Indian film star Salman Khan, 40, on February 17, 2006 was sentenced to serve a year in prison and was fined an amount equal to about \$125 U.S. for poaching two chinkara deer on the nights of September 26-27, 1998.

This was the first of four poaching cases pending against Khan, who is also fighting vehicular manslaughter charges in Mumbai for killing a man in a 2002 traffic accident.

Jodhpur Chief Judicial Magistrate B.K. Jain acquitted seven others accused in the 1998 chinkara poaching case, including comedian Satish Shah.

Among the stars-of-the-month depicted in the 1999 World Wildlife Fund-India calendar, Salman Khan often led illegal shooting parties into the Rajasthan desert during fall 1998, witnesses testified, but repeated complaints to police and wildlife officials failed to bring him to justice.

Finally members of the staunchly anti-hunting Bishnois sect gathered evidence of Khan's activities, and marched 5,000 strong on foot to Mumbai to demand justice.

Fearing the Bishnois despite their reputation for practicing nonviolence, even at cost of their own lives, Salman Khan reportedly hid at the home of the chairman of WWF-India's Rajasthan committee until his arrest.

The Khan prosecution was repeatedly delayed by witnesses who claimed to have forgotten key details and were often suspected of having been bribed.

Opponents of reintroducing sport hunting to India point toward the Khan case as evidence that Indian law enforcement is not strong enough to regulate a hunting industry.

U.S. President George W. Bush reportedly lobbied Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to accept U.S. funds for tiger conservation in July 2005, when Singh visited the White House, but Singh refused the money rather than give the U.S. leverage toward seeking to reintroduce trophy hunting to India.

Between Indian independence in 1949 until India banned sport hunting in 1973, U.S. hunters shot tigers and many other Indian animals to the verge of extinction.

Hunting money

"The Ministry of Environment and Forests might have ruffled diplomatic feathers by rejecting the U.S. government proposal for tiger funds," noted Jay Mazoomdaar of *The Indian Express* in September 2005, "but donations are trickling in from certain American canned hunting organizations," suspected of trying to establish a political foothold in India.

Zoo, conservationists buy out hunting rights

PITTSBURGH, VANCOUVER—The Pittsburgh Zoo & Aquarium and the British Columbia-based Raincoast Conservation Foundation have each taken sizeable habitats away from trophy hunters with recent land acquisitions.

The Pittsburgh Zoo & Aquarium announced on January 9 that it is spending \$2.5 million to buy the 615-acre Glen Savage Ranch from Jerry and Iris Leydig of Fairhope, Pennsylvania.

"The ranch now offers hunting of whitetail deer, elk, red stags, wild boar, buffalo and black bear. That will end," wrote Bill Zlatos of the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*. "Instead, the ranch will become "an education and conservation center for breeding elephants and other animals," Zlatos said.

The Raincoast Conservation Foundation on December 12, 2005 disclosed that a month earlier it paid \$1.35 million Canadian (about \$1 million U.S.) to acquire the guiding and outfitting rights to more than 20,000 square kilometers of B.C. coastal habitat stretching from northern Vancouver Island to Princess Royal Island.

"Raincoast, with the six first nations that occupy the territory, intends to put an immediate end to commercial hunting in the area," wrote Nicholas Read of the *Vancouver Sun*. "No one from outside B.C. will be permitted to kill animals in the region for sport. B.C. residents, who operate under different regulations, may continue to hunt in the area, but members of the first nations hope to see an end to that early next year."

League Against Cruel Sports gets a break

LONDON—The Royal Mail has agreed to accept £2,000 from the League Against Cruel Sports in lieu of as much as £500,000 in postage due fees claimed after hunters hijacked a fundraising appeal.

"A plea to supporters for donations to a free billing address ended up involving the bomb squad, police and Royal Mail fraud investigators," recounted Helen Nugent of *The Times of London*.

"Problems began when hunt enthusiasts heard about the drive. A round-robin e-mail was sent to hunters urging them to send Christmas cards, empty envelopes, and bulky packages. Within a fortnight, van loads of bricks, telephone directories, heavy books, abusive letters and animal excrement were sent to the league's offices in South

London. One hunter posted a dead squirrel." Among those circulating the e-mail, Nugent reported, were allegedly "the wife of an employee at Buckingham Palace. Another is believed to have been sent from the Master of Foxhounds Association."

Alastair Jackson, chair of the Master of Foxhounds Association, denied involvement, but told Nugent that "everyone applauded the idea at the time."

The original e-mail proposing the scheme "stated that the Countryside Alliance backed the idea, but this was refuted by the alliance," Nugent said.

None of the senders of either the e-mail or the objects handled by the Royal Mail have been criminally charged, but Scotland Yard is reportedly still investigating.

"Pressured by wildlife groups," Mazoomdaar explained, "the U.S. government decided not to renew licenses for canned hunting" of species which are considered endangered or threatened abroad, "unless ranches donate 10% of profit toward conservation. Licence renewal applications submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service show that the 007 Ranch in Texas has been donating 10% of proceedings to Conservation Force to fund a Barasingha [swamp deer] project conducted by the Wildlife Society of India," Mazoomdaar added, "run by faculty members of Aligarh Muslim University's Center of Ornithology and Wildlife. The latest installment of \$4,000 was paid in November 2004.

"Florida's TRL Exotics claimed to have donated \$250 to the Wildlife Institute of India, a claim dismissed by the prestigious institute," Mazoomdaar continued.

"We get money from Conservation Force. But we have no idea if it comes from hunting ranches," Wildlife Society of India vice president Afifullah Khan said.

Khan directs efforts to rebuild Barasingha populations in the Dudhwa Tiger Reserve and Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary—and Mazoomdaar had reason to be skeptical of the involvement of both Conservation Force and TRL Exotics.

Conservation Force founder John J. Jackson III is a Louisiana attorney who for

nearly 40 years has specialized in representing hunters. His firm opposed listing African elephants and Baja desert sheep as endangered species, and won permission for hunters to import elephant trophies despite the CITES ban on trafficking in elephant parts. Jackson is a past president of Safari Club International.

The Conservation Force board includes Jackson's wife, former International Professional Hunters Association president Don Lindsay, hunting booking agent Bert Klineberger, French hunting advocate Bertrand des Clers, and James G. Terr, a retired Texas A&M University professor who from 1969-1978 held the Caesar Kleberg Chair of Wildlife Ecology.

The chair was endowed by the hunting ranch developer who in 1924 introduced nilgai, or "Indian elk," to Texas. Feral herds now roam the Rio Grande Valley—and as of January 2006 were targeted for culling by the USDA Cattle Fever Tick Eradication Program.

"Both the 007 Ranch and TRL Exotics offer Barasingha as trophies for \$4,500," Mazoomdaar wrote.

Doing business as Double H Exotics in Wellington, Florida, TRL Exotics in mid-2005 sought U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service permission to allow trophy hunters to kill both ranches Barasingha and Arabian oryx.

Former U.S. Presidential candidate Dennis Kucinich rallied opposition.

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DROUGHT TESTS KENYAN AND ZIMBABWEAN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT POLICIES *(from page 1)*

The animals are to include endangered and threatened species including servals, crowned cranes, lesser flamingoes, and hippopotamuses. While the Kenyan animals sold to Thailand are not to be hunted, Ngunyo sees the transaction as a precedent for consumptive use of wildlife, rather than hands-off observation. Many Kenyans are also concerned that if foreigners can see Kenyan species in their own nations, fewer will come to visit.

The Kenya Ministry of Tourism & Wildlife reportedly ordered the Kenya Wildlife Service to begin capturing the 175 animals for export on February 16, 2006, after a 60-day injunction against the deal expired.

The Kenya SPCA and Community Based Organizations network applied to extend the injunction, but were given a March 8 court date, leaving a three-week window of opportunity for the animals to be caught and flown out.

Ngunyo hoped that protests scheduled for February 25 in Nairobi would deter the exports, but ongoing regional demonstrations have so far attracted more media attention than tangible results.

Firefight

As many as 3.5 million Kenyans, 1.8 million Ethiopians, 1.4 million Somalis, and 60,000 Djiboutians are at risk of famine due to drought—and many are already desperate. On January 13, 2006, Dongiro warriors from the Naita region of Ethiopia crossed into Kenya to try to steal about 300 cattle and goats from members of the Turkana tribe. Thirty Dongiro and eight Turkana women and children were killed in the ensuing firefight at Lokamarinyang village, Obare Osinde of Associated Press reported.

Thirteen salty wells are responsible for the existence of Goraye, a watering hole community at the edge of an extinct volcano in southern Ethiopia.

"The picturesque scene is littered with the corpses of thousands of goats and cattle," reported *Meskel Square* web log writer Andrew Heavens in mid-February 2006.

"Pastoralists from as far as Kenya have

come here in search of water," described Heavens. "A constant stream of goats, camels, and cattle slowly make their way down to the bottom of the crater for their small allotment of water. For many of the weaker animals, the walk back up is too much."

Herder Yatari Ali, 42, told Heavens that 200 to 300 animals per day die along the crater rim. Yatari said he had lost 100 goats, five cows and four camels, and had begun to worry about the survival of his two children, ages four years and three months.

"Development experts say the sheep and goats generally go first in a major drought," said Heavens. "Then the cattle, the camels, and the people. Estimates of the number of human deaths during the region's last major drought in 2000 range from 56,000 to more than 90,000."

Oxfam spokesperson Brendan Cox warned on February 8 that 70% of the cattle in the Wajir district of northern Kenya had already died. Rain last fell there in December 2004. Oxfam and the United Nations World Food Program called the crisis the worst to hit Kenya since the nation won independence from Britain in 1963.

Hippos & elephants

Though the dry northeast is most imperiled, drought most threatens wildlife in the south, where the major national parks are.

An estimated 60 to 80 starving hippos died in waterways and ponds in the Maasai Mara reserve during December 2005 and January 2006. As their habitat shrank, the hippos fought for what remained. Dead hippos reportedly contaminated many of the waterholes that had not already evaporated.

The Kenya Wildlife Service in January warned residents of communities surrounding wildlife areas to be especially careful of animals leaving the parks in search of better habitat, after buffalo killed one person and injured four near Maasai Mara, and elephants killed two near Tsavo National Park.

While wildlife ventured outside the reserves in search of food and water, herders engaged in the same quest took their animals

into the reserves, resulting in further conflict.

Reported Rodrigue Ngowi of Associated Press on February 12 from Amboseli National Park, close to Tanzania, "Elephants, buffaloes, and other wild animals drink water on one side of a swamp. On the other, Maasai warriors watch hundreds of cattle graze. Kenyan officials recently bent stringent conservation regulations to allow cattle into Amboseli—the only permanent source of water in the region."

"Conservation workers warn that Amboseli's delicate swamps and streams are threatened by a government plan to hand over management of the park to the local county council," Ngowi continued. "Conservation groups have sued the government seeking to stop Amboseli's handover to Olkejuado County Council, whose predecessor ran the sanctuary from 1961 until environmental degradation prompted the central government to take over in 1974."

Meanwhile, Ngowi noted, "Drought has begun to kill animals in Amboseli, and has started to drive elephants to leave national parks and game reserves—triggering conflicts between pachyderms and people."

Kenya Wildlife Services elephant project manager Patrick Omondi told Gakuu Mathenege of the *Nairobi East African* in January that since Kenya currently has only 30,000 wild elephants, with an estimated carrying capacity of 50,000, it will not consider culling any.

Instead, Kenya tries to relocate elephants from areas where they may be overpopulating to areas where they have yet to recover from intensive poaching during the 1980s.

That, however, tends to relieve one problem at cost of creating another.

Mwaluganje Elephant Sanctuary director Mohamed Mwarachuma and project man-



Leopard. (Kim Bartlett)

ager Paul Musila told Mazera Ndurya of the *Nairobi Nation* in December 2005 that helicopter flights associated with relocating about 150 elephants from the Shimba Hills National Reserve, near the Indian Ocean, to Tsavo East National Park, well inland, had driven the entire local elephant population into hiding. In consequence, they claimed, tourist revenue at the sanctuary had dropped by 60%.

Ultimately, 400 elephants are to be moved from the Shimba Hills, but the relocation was suspended in January 2006, said Kenya Wildlife Service spokesperson Connie Maina, because "There is more vegetation in Shimba Hills than there is in Tsavo. We shall resume," said Maina, "only after the rains resume and enough vegetation grows."

The African Wildlife Foundation, Safari Club International, and other international pro-hunting organizations have meanwhile helped aspiring hunting concessionaires

(continued on page 10)

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Louisiana Supreme Court allows local cockfighting ban

NEW ORLEANS—Cockfighting is legal in Louisiana because no state law says it isn't. However, since no law expressly authorizes it either, Caddo Parish has the right to ban it, the Louisiana Supreme Court ruled on January 19.

"The decision overturned a district court order which kept Sheriff Steve Prator from enforcing the parish animal cruelty ordinance," wrote Janet McConnaughey of Associated Press. "The parish ban

\$1.2 million for wrongful dismissal

HOUSTON—The Texas 1st Court of Appeals in mid-February 2006 upheld a \$1.2 million state district court jury award for wrongful dismissal made to former Houston city veterinarian Sam Levingston, DVM, 75.

"The case began when Levingston, who worked for the city for eight years, sued the Bureau of Animal Regulation and Care after he was fired in May 2000," wrote Alexis Grant of the *Houston Chronicle*. "He said he was fired for complaining that employees were not properly caring for animals. The city said Levingston was fired because a dog and her puppies died while in his care."

Houston city attorney's office division chief Connie Acosta said the city would seek a rehearing.

was passed in 1987, but Prator said it had never been enforced until numerous complaints about cockfights at the Piney Woods Game Club and the Ark-La-Tex Game Club Inc. prompted him to look into the parish laws."

The clubs sued, arguing that parrots and canaries are the only birds covered by the state anti-cruelty law. Ark-La-Tex secretary Drena Nix told McConnaughey that she expects to sue again, since her club was given a business license when opened in 1997.

Jail time for cruelty in Croatia

ZAGREB—A Croatian court for the first time jailed an animal abuser. Animal Friends Croatia e-mailed on January 27, 2006, after Judge Jasna Zoretic gave Ostoja Babi five months, one month less than the maximum, for severely beating his dog in December 2004. A police officer shot the dog to end her suffering.

"Animal Friends Croatia staged a demonstration in front of Babi's house and collected more than 2,400 petition signatures in less than a week," demanding the prosecution, the AFC e-mail said.

Animal Friends Croatia is now seeking to increase the Croatian penalties for extreme animal abuse, and bar persons convicted of extreme abuse from ever again keeping animals.



DROUGHT TESTS KENYAN AND ZIMBABWEAN POLICIES

(from page 10)

to rally support from farmers who are frustrated by elephants' crop raids, creating a potent political force in some districts—including around Tsavo.

Elephants are not helping their own cause by becoming increasingly aggressive.

"Across Africa, elephants seem to be turning on their human neighbors in ever increasing numbers," wrote Caroline Williams in the February 18, 2006 edition of *New Scientist*. "Although such attacks are nothing new," Williams continued, summarizing research by Gay Bradshaw of Oregon State University, "they have always been seen as a side effect of elephants competing for food and land. But that may not be the whole story. It may sound far-fetched," Williams admitted, "but a growing number of scientists are lending their support to the theory that elephants are taking revenge on humans."

Agreed Joyce Poole, research director at the Amboseli Elephant Research Project in Kenya, "They are certainly intelligent enough and have good enough memories."

Observed elephant attack researcher Eve Abe, "Elephant numbers have never been lower in Uganda. Food has never been so abundant. There is no reason for this to happen. In the 1960s elephant densities were very high and there were few reports of aggression. Now the elephants are just so wild."

Poaching has reduced the elephant population in Queen Elizabeth National Park, Uganda, to barely 10% of the size it was 30 years ago. But about a third of the survivors are orphans.

"Across the continent," Williams continued, "many herds have lost their matriarch and have had to make do with a succession of inexperienced 'teen mothers' who have raised a generation of juvenile delinquents.

Meanwhile a lack of older bulls has led to gangs of hyper-aggressive young males with a penchant for violence. In Pilanesburg National Park, South Africa, for example, young bulls have been attacking rhinos since 1992," a behavior previously seldom seen, "and in Addo National Park, also in South Africa, 90% of male elephants are killed by another male—15 times the 'normal' figure."

The South African National Park Service has proposed culling half the elephant population of Kruger National Park, claiming that post-traumatic stress disorder among the survivors will be minimized if whole families are culled together.

Bradshaw is skeptical. "That would be like taking out a district of London and thinking the rest of the city will be fine," she told Williams. "Do you think they're not going to know and be affected by what has happened to the herd next door?"

KwaZulu-Natal reintroduced elephants to the Greater St. Lucia Wetland Park in 2001. Already elephants have twice killed people there. The most recent incident, on November 3, 2005, looked suspiciously like an ambush, as a breeding herd of elephants blocked a truck whose occupants had been burning firebreaks. A cow elephant then pushed the truck off the road, smashed the windshield, tore off the roof, and fatally gored park worker Zelani Ntuli, 50.

African lion behavior is also believed to have become more aggressive in recent years, as lions have come under increasing pressure from hunting, anti-predation activity, and habitat loss.

Zimbabwean excuse

Drought provided the failing Robert Mugabe regime with an excuse for economic

collapse—along with a pretext for more aggressive exploitation of wildlife.

Hwange National Park public relations manager Edward Mbewe on November 15, 2005 told the Harare *Herald* that more than 40 elephants, 53 buffalo, a giraffe, three zebras and two impalas had died from thirst and black leg, described as "a disease that affects animals when the ground is too dry."

Mbewe disclosed the situation while seeking permission to cull elephants, and did not explain why the elephant toll had allegedly increased by 22 in three days since the Zimbabwe National Park & Wildlife Authority gave the *Herald* otherwise identical statistics.

"Zimbabwe's tourism industry faces collapse after reports of extensive wildlife deaths due to poaching and lack of water in national parks, with Gonarezhou and Hwange particularly badly hit," assessed Itai Mushekwe of the Zimbabwe *Independent*, often closed by the Mugabe regime for contradicting official statements.

In this instance, however, the *Independent* echoed the party line that the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species should allow Zimbabwe to cull elephants and sell their ivory.

"Hwange National Park has a population of 50,000 elephants, 36,000 more than the carrying capacity," Mushekwe claimed.

SW Radio Africa reporter Warren Moroka reported on November 18, 2005 that Zimbabwean deputy environment minister Andrew Langa had asked Namibia to take some of the starving Hwange elephants.

Namibian parks and wildlife department director Ben Beytell responded that the 16,000 Namibian elephants are also at risk from drought, and that the northern Caprivi region is already overrun with elephants escap-

ing from Chobe National Park in Botswana.

"What has not been reported," added Tererai Karimakwenda of SW Radio Africa, "is that outbreaks of foot and mouth and anthrax have been common in Zimbabwe, and Namibia did not want to take any chances. Zimbabwe's neighbors are also experiencing water shortages," Karimakwenda continued, "but they are better prepared and well staffed. They have spare parts for pumps and other irrigation equipment. In comparison, the Zimbabwe government is literally broke, and animals are the least of its concerns."

But drought was an issue in Namibia too. "Since October, more than 20 elephants have died in the Caprivi as the region's main rivers dry up," Absalom Shigwedha of *The Namibian* reported from Windhoek on November 23, 2005.

The Hwange crisis was eventually relieved somewhat when Zimbabwe Conservation Task Force chair Johnny Rodrigues raised funds from private donors, with the help of the SAVE Foundation of Australia, to buy two new pump engines with which to resurrect the Hwange wells, "plus enough spare parts," Rodrigues e-mailed, "to repair another 20 engines."

"Our industry depends on wildlife and the parks. The state of their health is what drives the tourism industry," Zimbabwe Council of Tourism chair Tom Chuma told Mushekwe of the *Independent*. "We expect all responsible authorities to do what they're supposed to do, and that is ensuring the wildlife and parks are in a functional state."

What the so-called responsible authorities were actually doing was finalizing a "Wildlife Based Land Reform Policy" that amounts to legalizing the takeover of the

(continued on page 11)

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DROUGHT TESTS KENYAN AND ZIMBABWEAN POLICIES (from page 10)

Zimbabwean trophy hunting industry by Mugabe government insiders.

“Animals belong to the state. The policy has been approved and we are now waiting to identify people with the ability to run conservancies,” environment and tourism minister Francis Nhema told the Zimbabwe Standard on January 6.

Nhema claimed that white game ranchers would be compensated for 25-year leases to be issued by his ministry.

The U.S. Treasury Department is among the skeptics.

Summarized Joshua Hammer in the January 13, 2006 edition of Newsweek, “Jocelyn Chiwenga, wife of General Constantine Chiwenga, commander-in-chief of Zimbabwe’s army, has earned a reputation in her own right as a vicious enforcer for President Robert Mugabe. About three years ago, Chiwenga won an auction for a coveted lease on a 220-square-mile tract of bush, owned by Zimbabwe’s Parks and Wildlife Authority, located just outside Hwange National Park. Chiwenga’s property has since become a choice destination for professional hunters, particularly well-heeled Americans.”

However, in November 2005, the U.S. Treasury Department “added Chiwenga, 50, to a list of 128 Mugabe relatives and cronies who are ‘undermining democratic processes or institutions in Zimbabwe,’”

Hammer wrote. “The Treasury Department has blocked the assets of those on the list and established penalties of up to \$250,000 and 10 years’ imprisonment for anyone who does business with them. That executive order has put Americans who hunt on her land in legal jeopardy.”

The episode, wrote Hammer, “has drawn new attention to the unsavory links between American sportsmen and the Mugabe dictatorship,” repeatedly exposed by ANIMAL PEOPLE since 1994.

“One of Chiwenga’s neighbors in the Victoria Falls area is Webster Shamu, Mugabe’s minister of policy implementation, and a key architect of the brutal slum clearance program that has left some 700,000 poor black Zimbabweans homeless,” Hammer noted. “Another is Jacob Mudenda, the former governor of Matabele-land North. All of them do a brisk business catering to professional American hunters.”

Njabulo Ncube, chief political reporter for the Harare Financial Gazette, estimated that U.S. citizens “comprise 80-90% percent of the people who visit Zimbabwe for trophy hunting.”

Mudenda is among the owners of Inyathi Hunting Ltd., which markets hunting expeditions on Woodland Estates, near Victoria Falls.

Hammer also named as key mar-

keters for the Mugabe in-crowd, “Out of Africa Adventurous Safaris, founded by four former South African policemen and based in both South Africa and Overland Park, Kansas,” which was eventually banished from Zimbabwe for alleged violations of hunting laws, and “Rob and Barry Style, owners of Buffalo Range Safaris, based in Harare.

“Rob Style denied in an e-mail to Newsweek that he had a business relationship with Chiwenga,” Hammer said, but “several professional hunters in Zimbabwe insist that the brothers have frequently taken clients to shoot animals on her property. The Hunting Guide, an industry newsletter published in the United States, also names Buffalo Range Safaris as a hunting-safari operator on Chiwenga-owned land.”

Hammer confirmed—as ANIMAL PEOPLE reported earlier—that “American hunters are also flocking to private game reserves that were seized without compensation, and sometimes with violence, from white farmers and ranchers as part of Mugabe’s radical land-reform program. That property is now mostly in the hands of Mugabe’s most diehard supporters.

“Many of the land owners who took this property by force,” Hammer alleged, “have no experience in wildlife conservation. They reportedly ignore strict hunting quotas on prized species such as lion and leopard. They

also allegedly kill animals, including rhino, inside protected wildlife areas.”

Newsweek missed...

Hammer did not mention a September 2005 transaction in which 35 rhinos were transferred from the government-owned Gourlays Ranch to the Bubi River Conservancy, owned by HHK Safari Operators. HHK Safari Operators once listed Webster Shamu as a partner, but another partner told The Hunting Report recently that Shamu is no longer involved.

The rhinos were moved, secretary for environment and tourism Margaret Sangarwe told the Harare Herald, to protect them from poaching. The move was financed, said the Herald, by the World Wildlife Fund.

Edward Mbebe, who wanted to shoot elephants in Hwange National Park, said that the rhinos would eventually be released into Gonarezhou National Park.

“We are encouraging farmers to take some of the animals, especially rhinos, so that poaching levels are contained,” said environment and tourism minister Francis Nhema “We have problems at this time of the year when animals move out of the parks in search of water and food and are killed by poachers.”

As Hammer’s Newsweek expose went to press, Nhema was also trying to

(continued on page 12)

\$36 million to Mozambique

Jay Knott, USAid director for Mozambique, on January 27, 2006 announced a 30-year, \$36 million plan to restore Gorongosa National Park, whose large wildlife was poached to the verge of extirpation during 11 years of occupation by Renamo rebels, 1981-1992.

The Massachusetts-based Gregory C. Carr Foundation is to “fund conservation services, create a wildlife sanctuary, and set up the mechanisms to reintroduce Gorongosa as a tourist destination,” said the Agencia de Informacao de Mocambique, in Maputo.

Gorongosa National Park director of tourism development Vasco Galante mentioned “two main immediate objectives for the park—to secure its biodiversity, and to work with the communities who are living within the park boundaries.”

This resembled the rhetoric that USAid long used in support of the Zimbabwean CAMPFIRE program [see page 12], which USAid also introduced to Mozambique, but while anticipating that tourists might start arriving as early as 2007, neither Knott nor Galante appears to have mentioned hunting.

TRIBUTES

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Crows & parrots outwit exterminators

(from page 1)

annual crow-killing contest organized by Lance Gummerson of Auburn, Tom Lennox of Owasco, and Jon VanNest of Moravia shot 462 crows in the countryside near Auburn during just two days, February 11-12. Yet most of the crows who were there reportedly escaped the gunners. The official crow count in Auburn increased to 600.

Crows can be roused—but if the habitat attracts them, they come right back when the perceived threat subsides. Auburn reportedly drew 63,000 more crows at peak this winter, and still had 5,000 more when the killing contest started than were there a year earlier.

A similar story of frustration came from Lancaster, Pennsylvania, in late January, where an estimated 50,000 crows for two nights feasted on unpoisoned bait put out by USDA Wildlife Services. The third night, Wildlife Services used poisoned bait.

The crows “moved over a block and sat down and didn’t want to come over,” state USDA Wildlife Services director Harris Glass told Associated Press.

The Wabash Valley Audubon Society has tried for at least five years to disperse huge “murders” of crows, as flocks are formally called, in Logansport and Terre Haut, Indiana. The Wabashers found that noise worked best, but “All the noise does is move them from one location to another,” Wabash Valley Audubon Society president John Haag admitted to Associated Press.

Apparently heedless of the failures of crow-shooting and noisemaking elsewhere, Riverton, Wyoming mayor John Vincent declared a public emergency in early February 2006 and ordered town police to shoot crows. As of February 12, they had killed about 800 to no visible effect.

Shaking fists toward the skies, crow-fighters soldier on like medieval crusaders, whose every move was signaled by black clouds of carrion-pickers. Starving crusaders at times ate crow, as farmers fled ahead of them, taking their livestock, but crows undoubtedly ate crusaders much more often.

The clank of armor in the Middle Eastern desert heat meant to the crows more or less what the sound of a can opener does to a dog or cat.

Foes of crows, re-outfitted as purgers of parrots, are also among public service agencies’ first line of defense against avian invaders from South America. Colonizing the greater New York City area and parts of Texas and Florida more than 40 years ago, at least 10 parrot species are now taking advantage of climatic warming to rapidly extend their range. A fossilized beak found in Montana indicates that parrots were in upper North American once before—but as contemporaries of *Tyrannosaurus Rex*.

Personnel from USDA Wildlife Services, state wildlife agencies, and private exterminating companies routinely tear down the birds’ homes or blast them apart with water cannon, trying to protect electrical wiring.

The most prolific feral parrot species, monk parakeets, also known as Quaker parrots, are nonetheless as diligent as any human monks and intrepid as Quaker missionaries, often rebuilding stick nests that weigh more than a ton within a matter of days. Other feral parrots tend to be less obvious, but not less persistent.

Crows vs. parrots

Losing on all fronts to bird brains, most of the alleged expert crow and parrot expurgators appear to be unaware that in nature these two orders seldom co-exist—and not just because parrots are primarily Southern Hemisphere

birds, while crows colonized much of the world from the north.

“Members of the crow family are found in South America,” *Lives of North American Birds* author Kenn Kaufman told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, “but members of the genus *Corvus*, the true crows and ravens, are not found there. The common raven extends halfway down Central America, but the southernmost crows on this land mass are in Mexico. Thinking about places I know about in the tropics,” Kaufman continued, “jays are generally not common in South America, the jaylike things in forests of southern Asia are mostly uncommon, and the crows and ravens found in Africa and southern Asia are very much out in the open country, not overlapping much with parrots, which tend to be tied to the forests.”

Indian house crows and ringnecked parakeets share the same cities. Yet as their name indicates, house crows did not become the prolific species they are today until human development enabled them to thrive in a deforested niche that was less hospitable to parrots, who retain an urban habitat niche at only a fraction of their rural abundance.

Parrots, chiefly vegetarians, have the edge over crows in a fruit-filled jungle. Crows, chiefly insectivores, do better as the jungle gives way to grasslands and conifers.

“I don’t know if the omnivore versus herbivore dichotomy is the reason why these groups don’t overlap much,” Kaufman said, “but it is a stimulating question.”

Where parrots thrive, crows and their jay cousins seem to take a hint that the habitat will not support them.

Where corvids predominate, *Psittacidae* seldom settle, not least because crows and jays are voracious nest-raiders, while most parrots and parakeets produce just two eggs per nest each year.

Accordingly, leaving either crows or parrots alone might be the best way to deter the other.

For example, crows roosting on the wires may prove to be the most certain means of keeping monk parakeets and conures out of power pole transformer platforms. About once a year conflicts between power companies and parrots burst into headlines, especially in Florida and Connecticut.

Confrontations between Florida Power & Light and parrot defenders appear to have peaked in 1999-2000. In August 2000 the Animal Rights Foundation of Florida unsuccessfully sought to bring cruelty charges against FPL workers who killed baby parakeets by blasting them out of their nests with hoses. FPL eventually issued a statement of regret, and began working with the Quaker Parrot Society to keep the parakeets from nesting on power poles.

The most recent of many Connecticut parrot wars erupted in October 2005. United Illuminating workers dismantled many nests, while USDA Wildlife Services dispatched captured occupants in a carbon dioxide gas chamber.

Parrot defender Julie Cook, 37, of West Haven, was arrested for breach-of-peace for refusing to leave the scene of a nest removal. The charge was later dropped.

“The electric utility relented after 179 birds were killed, among a statewide population estimated at more than 1,000,” summarized Ken Dixon of the *Connecticut Post*. “In all, 103 nests from West Haven to Bridgeport were destroyed in United Illuminating’s \$125,000 eradication program.”

“That’s \$698.32 per dead parrot in costs to taxpayers or rate-payers,” commented Friends of Animals president Priscilla Feral.

On December 6, 2005, FoA withdrew an application for an emergency injunction to save the parrots, after United Illuminating said it had finished parrot captures for the year.



Monk parakeet mates. (Marc Johnson)

FoA is hoping, however, to make the suspension of parrot-killing permanent with a lawsuit alleging that United Illuminating has been negligent in trying to keep monk parakeets off power poles, and should not now be allowed to kill the birds when non-lethal methods have barely been tried.

United Illuminating spokesperson Albert Carbone said that the nest dismantling teams “found that a lot of the insulation on the wires was chewed up, which was a fire hazard and a threat to public health and safety.”

Carbone claimed that parrot nests have caused two utility pole fires since 2003.

But that raised the question of why United Illuminating didn’t clear the nests away long before they became parakeet apartment houses, holding as many as 40 birds each. Consolidated Edison in Brooklyn and Public Service Electric & Gas Company, in New Jersey, have reportedly both turned to nonlethal preventive measures, after more aggressive efforts against monk parakeets failed years ago.

“It’s not our policy to call them pests,” Consolidated Edison spokesperson Chris Olert told Verna Dobnik of Associated Press in 2001.

Connecticut Light & Power, the other major electrical utility serving Connecticut, has reportedly had to demolish only one nest, in 2003.

FoA has recommended non-lethal monk parakeet solutions for more than 15 years. A 2001 confrontation between FoA and the city of Stamford over monk parakeets ended when federally protected ospreys built nests atop monk parakeet nests at some sites. Earlier, Stamford tried covering power poles with netting to keep monk parakeets away. The parakeets quickly shredded the netting.

As in the past, monk parakeets surviving the utility company offensive almost immediately rebuilt their nests. But this time many rebuilt on 20-foot nest poles designed by Marc Johnson, of Feral Parrots Ltd. in Rockland, Massachusetts. As of late January 2006, Johnson had installed 23 nest poles with eight more planned.

“We have to get United Illuminating to do really aggressive maintenance throughout the spring and into the summer, particularly during the breeding season, so the birds aren’t allowed to build even a small nest [on power poles],”

(continued on page 13)

Kenya, Zimbabwe

(from page 11)

explain the Mugabe government’s role in the collapse of a crocodile farm.

“At least 12 crocodiles have died of starvation on the farm, in Serui, near Chegutu, while another 258 are close to death after going without food since November 2005,” wrote Tsitsi Matope of Harare *Herald* on January 25.

“Malham Farm was allocated to Zimbabwe Tourism Authority chief executive officer Mr Karikoga Kaseke on November 3, 2005,” Matope continued—but Kaseke disavowed responsibility, saying he had never actually taken possession of the farm.

“Officials from the Parks and Wildlife Management Authority and Zimbabwe National SPCA yesterday rescued the surviving crocodiles,” Matope added.



African lions, in Tsavo National Park, Kenya. (Kim Bartlett)

Nhema told Matope that “cruelty to animals is a serious offence that warrants a custodial sentence,” but issued an immediate disclaimer. “We know that wildlife farming is a new venture for many people,” Nhema said. “We always encourage those with no knowledge to nurture the animals to seek help.”

Hammer of *Newsweek* further did not mention the longtime role of the U.S. Agency for International Development in building the Zimbabwean trophy hunting industry. From 1989 through 2004, USAid pumped more than \$40 million into the Communal Areas Management Program for Indigenous Resources.

Passed by Congress as an incentive for Zimbabwe to comply with the 1989 Convention on International Trade in

Endangered Species moratoriums on elephant ivory and rhino horn trafficking, CAMPFIRE raised about \$2.5 million per year in revenue, mostly from trophy hunts—and rewarded Mugabe regime insiders for neglecting the leftist goals that brought Mugabe to power.

Hammer cited the Safari Club International convention held in Reno, Nevada, in January as the most important marketing opportunity of the year for Zimbabwean hunting



Cape buffalo. (Kim Bartlett)

promoters.

Mudenda was barred from the U.S., but others claimed success.

“Despite negative Western media publicity, Zimbabwe safari operators have raked in billions of dollars in hunting deals clinched,” the Harare *Herald* declared.

The billions were in Zimbabwean dollars, however, at an exchange rate of 165,000 to the U.S. dollar.

“There were media reports that discouraged American hunters from having anything to do with Zimbabwe, as this would mean promoting the so-called human rights abuses said to be happening here,” complained Zimbabwean Parks & Wildlife Management Authority director general Morris Mutsambiwa.

“After discussing the matter with a few other members of our team, we decided to meet with the United States of America’s Fish

& Wildlife Services, a scientific authority responsible for the importation of trophies,” Mutsambiwa continued.

In disregarding human rights concerns and in viewing the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service as an agency that exists to serve hunters, Mutsambiwa demonstrated an ideological affinity with U.S. President George W. Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney. Both are Safari Club lifetime members.

Cheney, on that day, was at the Armstrong Ranch in south Texas, shooting cage-reared quail and attorney Harry Whittington, 78, of Austin, Texas.

Hit by birdshot in the cheek, chest, and shoulder, while shooting with Cheney, Whittington later suffered a “silent heart attack” after a pellet migrated into his heart, but survived.

Cheney was not charged with any offense. —Merritt Clifton

Crows & parrots outwit exterminators

(from page 12)

Johnson told Dixon. "These are very smart birds," Humane Society of the U.S. urban wildlife director Laura Simon told Pat Eaton-Robb of Associated Press. "If you harass them correctly at the right time of year, they will learn not to build on the electrical poles."

Connecticut Legislative Environment Committee co-chair Richard Roy (D-Milford) pledged to review a 2003 state law that identifies monk parakeets as an eradicable feral species, and said he had asked the state Congressional Representatives to try to remove monk parakeets from federal hit lists. "I've had over 50 calls about this," Roy told Eaton-Robb, "and only one person has been on the side of United Illuminating."

The Connecticut Audubon Society favored the nest removals, consistent with Audubon opposition to any non-native wildlife, but society senior director of science

and conservation Milan Bull had good words for the parakeets. "They're great birds," Bull told Dixon of the *Connecticut Post*. "In South America," where they are native, "they are considered an agricultural pest," Bull noted, but added, "I have not noticed any situation, beyond a peripheral level, where monk parakeets have competed with native birds."

Monitoring the Connecticut parrot population for decades, Bull told *New York Times* reporter Lennie Grimaldi in September 1990 that they may be descendants of a wild-caught flock who were crated and flown north from Argentina to be sold in pet stores circa 1968, during a brief parrot import boom. More than 64,000 monk parakeets were imported from 1968 to 1972—and, as escapees turned up all over the U.S., 11 states enacted monk parakeet bans which have largely been ignored, especially by the birds.

One particular crate full of monk

parakeets reputedly bounced off a truck either at Kennedy International Airport in New York City, or along Interstate 95 near the T.F. Green State Airport in Rhode Island, according to different versions of the same story related by Bull and Rhode Island animal advocate Kathleen A. Lemery. Or possibly similar accidents happened twice.

Whatever occurred, monk parakeets were first recorded in Connecticut by the annual Audubon Christmas bird counts in 1971. At about the same time small flocks were seen in Warwick, Rhode Island, and on Long Island, directly across Long Island Sound.

The first Connecticut colony, settling in New Haven, spread south to Bridgeport circa 1990. The Warwick colony colonized Jamestown, Rhode Island, in 1997. The Long Island colony apparently moved to New Jersey circa 1993.

"They may not be trouble now,"



"Quaker & monk I may be, but you'll never catch me alive, copper!" (Marc Johnson)

New Jersey Division of Fish & Game zoologist Paul Zalka warned in 1997, "but once they spread, they'll create havoc."

Agreed New Jersey Audubon Society conservation director Rich Kane,

(continued on page 14)

Events

- March 8-11: HSUS Animal Care Expo**, Anaheim. Info: 301-548-7739; <www.hsi-hsus.org>.
- March 18: Wild About Wildlife** dinner/auction for SW Wildlife Rehabilitation & Educational Foundation, Scottsdale, Arizona. Info: 480-951-3082.
- March 18: N.Y. Turtle & Tortoise Soc.** annual seminar, NYC. Info: <nyttts.org/nyttts/sem2006.htm>.
- March 20: Great American Meatout**. Info: Farm Animal Reform Movement, 1-800-MEAT-OUT, <www.Meat-Out.org>.
- March 24-25: Eastern Box Turtle Conservation Workshop**, N.C. Zoo, Asheboro, N.C., co-sponsored by HSUS. Info: 336-879-7620; <john.groves@ncmail.net>.
- March 24-26: IPPL-2006**, at Intl. Primate Protection Lg., Summer-ville, N.C. Info: 843-871-2280 or <Info@ippl.org>.
- March 25: Burlesque for Bucharest** fundraiser in Hollywood, Calif., for Schnuffie Productions documentary on dogs & cats in Romania. Info: <eva@schnuffie.com>.
- March 25: Farm Animal Forum**, San Francisco. Info: Farm Sanctuary, 607-583-4512, x269 or 530-865-4617, x12; <www.farmsanctuary.org>.
- April 4-5: Minnesota Animal Control Assn. spring conf.**, Morton, MN. Info: 952-563-4940; <maca@minnesotaanimalcontrol.org>.
- April 8-9: United Poultry Concerns Forum on Using the Media**, Columbus, OH. Info: 757-




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Crows & parrots make exterminators look stupid (from page 1)

"These parrots will wreak havoc."

But the New Jersey parakeets didn't wreak havoc until after the Public Service Electric & Gas Co. twice destroyed their nests. Twice the parakeets rebuilt. Finally, in June 1998, parakeet nesting activity caused an early morning short circuit on a pole in Edgewater. Six fledglings were killed, despite the efforts of six adult parrots to save them, witnessed and described to *Bergen Record* staff writer Richard Cowen by Edgewater firefighter Bill Schiess.

Southern Connecticut State University biology department chair Dwight Smith recalled during the 2005 attempted parrot purge that earlier extermination efforts using similar methods failed. Flocks were netted alive at least twice, and were sent to live at the Beardsley Park Zoo in Bridgeport and the Long Island Game Farm, but the remnant populations left at large soon recovered.

"There has been an incredible outpouring of support for these animals, and we need to work with the USDA, the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection and United Illuminating Co. to find another viable approach," said Representative Christopher Shays (R-Bridgeport).

However, changing the relevant federal policies might require legislation which at present might have little chance of passage.

Many species of parrot are recognized by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species as either endangered or threatened in the wild, but CITES protects species only in global commerce.

A USDA budget appropriation rider slipped through Congress just before Thanksgiving 2004 by U.S.

Representative Wayne Gilchrest (R-Maryland) and U.S. Senator George Voinovich (R-Ohio) broadly exempted "non-native" species from the 1918 Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Though the amendments were aimed at enabling government agencies to exterminate mute swans and non-migratory Canada geese, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service took the opportunity to exempt more than 100 species altogether, and wrote the enforcement regulations in an open-ended manner that allows for exempting more species later.

The entire parrot family, *Psittacidae*, is exempted from Migratory Bird Treaty Act protection, according to the USDA list of targeted species.

Welcomed in Chicago

Despite federal and Audubon antipathy, monk parakeets have long been officially tolerated and even encouraged in the Hyde Park district of Chicago, beginning during the mayoral tenure of the late Harold Washington. When an ash tree in Harold Washington Park that had supported as many as 50 monk parakeet nests split and fell in June 2004, the Chicago Police Department, Chicago Park District, and Chicago Animal Control all helped to rescue and relocate the nests to other trees in the park.

USDA Animal Damage Control, as Wildlife Services was formerly called, in 1988 ordered that the parrots should be evicted. The Harold Washington Memorial Parakeet Defense Fund successfully resisted the order.

The Chicago monk parakeets expanded their habitat from six known nesting sites in 1998 to 43 in 2004, according to Chicago printing company executive Walter Marcisz, who



Florida feral lovebirds. (Charlotte Fox)

has documented their activity for the journal *Meadowlark*. Monk parakeets reportedly range from the Shedd Aquarium, alongside Lake Michigan, out to Carol Stream, Kenosha, and semi-rural suburbs in DuPage and McHenry counties, tending to follow berry thickets. Contrary to USDA expectations, however, they so far show no signs of spreading on into the Illinois grain belt.

There is not much fruit in a corn field—and that's where the crows are.

Neither have monk parakeets spread beyond Houston, where their presence was documented by 1984; the Dallas-Fort Worth area, with local colonies since 1987; and Oklahoma City, where they were found in 1990. Where backyard fruit trees thrive, monk parakeets thrive. The land beyond the watered suburbs, they leave to the crows.

Along the west coast, monk parakeets are thriving as far north as Seattle and Port Orchard, Washington. In April 2005 the Port Orchard city council required Cingular Wireless to trap a feral flock of about 30 as a condition of winning a per-

(continued on page 15)

Ring-necked parakeets might take

LONDON—Ring-necked parakeets, brought to Britain from India as exotic pets in Victorian times, formed feral populations in London in the early 20th century. They struggled through the cold British winters for most of 100 years before global warming changed the climate in their favor.

The United Kingdom Phenology Network, described by *Independent* environmental editor Michael McCarthy as "a massive database of the timing of natural events, such as oak leaves appearing, frogs spawning, and swallows returning," has established that biological spring comes to Britain three weeks earlier now than 40 years ago.

Despite the significance of this finding to agriculture, forestry, and species conservation, the British government recently cut off funding for the Phenology Network headquarters at Monks Wood, in Cambridgeshire, and also axed the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology research stations at Winfrith, in Dorset, and Banchory, near Aberdeen.

Though the Tony Blair administration appears reluctant to learn more about global warming, ring-necked parakeets

have taken advantage of it to become one of the "Top 20 most spotted birds" in much of Britain, and one of the 10 most-spotted species in parts of London, according to annual counts directed by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

"The RSPB predicts that the parakeet population will more than treble in the next four years," reported Frances Booth of the *Daily Telegraph* on January 23, 2006. "They have been seen in almost every English county, and occasionally in Scotland and Wales. Last year they were recorded in 21 of London's 32 boroughs."

As many as 12,000 ring-necked parakeets now inhabit London, according to RSPB estimates, 7,000 of them in the largest colony and 4,000 in the next largest. The major colonies show signs of converging.

"Despite rising numbers, there is little evidence of the birds causing damage, apart from one incident at a vineyard," Booth continued.

In Britain, ring-necked parakeets are protected under the Wildlife & Countryside Act. As in the U.S. however,



Tower of London ravens. (Kim Bartlett)

crows and other corvids are not protected, and are often targeted, even for alleged offenses they have nothing to do with.

Climatic change, for example, while enabling parakeets and other southern immigrants to extend their range, is also associated with declines in birds who prefer a cooler climate. Impervious to the mountain of evidence assembled by the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, and other institutions that points toward climatic factors, the monthly magazine *Sporting Shooter* in February 2005 blamed magpies, who are members of the crow family, and offered a prize to the reader who killed the most magpies during the next five months.

Marie Woolf of *The Independent* disclosed a day later that Tower of London raven master and Yeoman Warder Derrick Coyle shoots as many as 12 crows a week.

"Coyle shoots birds who look ill, with dull eyes and lank ruffled feathers, because he fears they could spread disease to the ravens," wrote Woolf. "He also targets the birds who lead the flock, to try to persuade them to disperse. Crows who look as though they have eaten poisoned rats are also shot, because if they die they would be devoured by their larger carnivorous cousins. The raven master collects their bodies as they fall out of the trees...The secret culling, disclosed to *The Independent* under the Freedom of Information Act, takes place early in the morning, before the tourists arrive."

Supposedly Coyle shoots crows to protect the ravens in his care. According to legend, the British monarchy will fall if ravens ever leave the Tower.

Crows are no more popular in Moscow and Tokyo, but those cities practice much less violent control methods.

After years of shooting crows and trying to scare them off with noisemakers, to little avail, Moscow now employs falconers to fly three falcons and two eagles in the vicinity of Red Square and the Kremlin.

Tokyo found in a study of 1,300 families' waste disposal habits that while crows readily peck into white garbage bags to seek food, they seem to leave yellow bags alone.

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Crows & parrots, conclusion (from page 14)

mit to nearly double the height of a cell telephone relay tower.

The Port Orchard parakeets are believed to be descended from five who escaped in early 2002 from a dropped crate at Phase II Birds, in the South Kitsap Mall. A red-headed conure who escaped from a home in South Kitsap may fly with them.

At least six parrot species have colonized California. The oldest continuously observed populations, in the San Gabriel Valley, may have been started by escapees from a 1959 pet shop fire in Pasadena.

As many as 1,500 parrots thrive in Temple City, California. Bakersfield, San Diego, San Francisco, Santa Barbara, San Bernardino, and Riverside also have established populations of various species, mostly conures and monk parakeets, but also including black-hooded parakeets and others.

The San Francisco conures are especially well-known, documented in a recent book, *The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill*, by musician Mark Bittner, and in a film by the same name made by Bittner's partner Judy Irving. Bittner has advocated often for the parrots and their habitat in a series of public controversies going back almost a decade.

Conure flocks have also been controversial in Colorado Springs and Maui, Hawaii.

Peach-faced lovebirds, an African species, circa 1989-1990 nested near Mesa

and Apache Junction, Arizona. By 2004 they ranged throughout Phoenix and Scottsdale.

Contrary to general impression, there are parrots who are native to parts of the U.S., other than the Carolina parakeet, officially extinct since 1930.

Thick-billed parrots range into Arizona at times from Mexico. A few dozen may nest in Arizona. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service tried from 1983 to 1995 to expand the thick-billed parrot population, releasing 88 birds who were confiscated from smugglers. Disease, drought, and predation soon killed at least 43 of them. The rest vanished—but thick-billed parrot sightings are still occasionally reported, including a large flock observed at Copper Canyon, Arizona, in 2005.

Red-crowned parrots, green parakeets, red-fored parrots, yellow-headed parrots, and lilac-crowned parrots, also native to Mexico, have within the past six years formed colonies in the Rio Grande Valley.

While the others probably are descended from birds who escaped from smugglers, the red-crowned parrots may have migrated north from nesting colonies known to have existed along the Rio Conchos, 183 miles south of Harlingen, Texas.

In any event, parrots have escaped from smugglers for decades. Only relatively recently have they found the North American habitat congenial.

—Merritt Clifton



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Parrot diversity in greater NYC area

Monk parakeets are not the only feral parrots in the greater New York area—just the most abundant.

Mitred conures have been reported at large in New York City since 1984. A pair of mitred conures in 1988 nested in the eaves of a house in the Rosedale section of Queens, New York. They had four surviving offspring, and the flock had increased to 30 by 1994, Marc Morrone of Parrots of the World told *Long Island Newsday* then.

"People think they are going to freeze to death, somebody lost them, or that they have gold in their trees," Morrone said, advising that the birds should be left alone.

Though still few, the mitred conures now seem to be permanent residents.

A cockatiel, either feral or an escapee, had the dubious distinction of being

the first New Jersey bird known to be infected with the mosquito-borne West Nile virus—which in North America has most often hit crows. Caught alive in Middletown, New Jersey, in July 2000, the cockatiel died later at a Staten Island veterinary clinic.

Phil Caidin, the "Bird Man of Central Park," who died in February 2002 at age 77, became a parrot rescuer after his own white albino parakeet escaped out an open window in 1957. Caidin captured more than 100 monk parakeets and seven parrots of other species during more than 40 years of active rescuing. Caidin told **ANIMAL PEOPLE** that he could only capture birds who had not yet connected with the feral flocks. Once parakeets and parrots meet others of their own kind at large, they usually are beyond capture unless ill or injured.

More events (from page 11)

678-7875; <www.upc-online.org>.

April 23-25: Texas Federation of Humane Societies 2006 Conf., Corpus Christi. Info: <txfederation@austin.rr.com>; <www.txfederation.org>.

(continued on page 15)

April 24: Romania Animal Rescue golf tournament, Clayton, Calif. Info: 925-672-5908; romaniadogs@sbcglobal.net.

May 6: Petfest 2006 Spring Adoption Day, Indianapolis. Info: Hoosiers Helping Homeless Pets, 317-767-0660; <petfest@hoosierpets.org>; <www.hoosierpets.org>.

May 15-17: Caribbean Animal Welfare Conference, Antigua. Info: <www.pegasusfoundation.org>.

May 29-31: Conservation & Animal Welfare, conference co-sponsored by Instituto Português para a Educação Humanitária, Cambridge Learning Institute, British Council of Portugal, Jane Goodall Institute and Universidade Lusófona de Humanidades e Tecnologias, Lisbon, Portugal. Info: <www.livetag.com/ipeh/>.

June 3: Christian Animal Rights Conf., Caldwell, N.J. Info: <Godscre@MSN.com>; <www.Gods-creaturesministry.org>.

June 8-9: WSPA Global Animal Welfare Summit, London. Info: 44-0-207-587-5000; <symposium-2006@wspa.org.uk>.

June 9-11: New Zea-

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Rescuers send lion to canned hunt supplier

BUCHAREST, CAPE TOWN—Romania is not usually regarded as a lion-exporting nation, South Africa is rarely if ever thought of as a lion importer, and the animal advocacy groups Born Free Foundation and Vier Pfoeten are unlikely canned hunt suppliers, but recent lion rescues have taken some very strange twists.

First, in mid-2004 a young African lion named Lutu was “found starving to death in a squalid cage in Romania,” according to Mark Townsend of the London *Observer*. Actress Amanda Holden raised \$250,000 to enable the Born Free Foundation to send Lutu to the Shamwari private wildlife viewing reserve in South Africa. Instead, in August 2004, days before Lutu was to be moved, he disappeared.

“All that is currently undisputed regarding the fate of Lutu,” Townsend wrote two months later, “is that his owner broke an agreement with the Born Free Foundation by selling Lutu to a mystery buyer for an unknown sum.”

Lutu is still missing, suspected dead at the hands of a European trophy hunter. The Born Free Foundation eventually bought a four-year-old lioness named Achee from a Bucharest used car dealer and sent Achee to Shamwari instead.

As notice of the Lutu case subsided, the Romanian radio station Radio Total bought a lion cub from a zoo, hoping to release her into wild habitat.

“To find Frida the right place,” recounts CannedLion.com founder Chris Mercer, of Cape Town, South Africa, “they got in touch with Vier Pfoeten, who assured them that it had done this before, and could make all the arrangements.

“On December 5, 2005, Frida was flown to the Camorhi Game Lodge in Free State province. The considerable expenses were born by Radio Total and Bogdan Popescu. Imagine the shock and horror of Mr. Popescu when he found out via the Internet that his cub was not going back to the wild, but had been delivered to the benefit, ultimately, of canned lion hunting. Frida had not been spayed. She is now a perfect candidate for captive breeding.”

Now campaigning to have Frida relocated to the well-regarded Drakenstein Lion Park in Cape Town, Mercer has clashed with Camorhi Game Lodge owner Marius Prinsloo several times before.

Mercer wrote in a 2003 court filing that Enkosini Wildlife Sanctuary cofounders Greg Mitchell and Kelsey Grimm, “from March 2000 until September 2001, ran the Camorhi Game Lodge ecotourism business...They saw tame lions sold for canned hunts, cubs ripped away at birth from their mothers, and lionesses forced into estrus for ‘speed breeding.’

“The Johannesburg Zoo brought two High Court cases against Prinsloo,” Mercer said. The cases were based on information from Mitchell and Grimm that Prinsloo had falsely reported the death of a lion named Zeus, sent to him on a breeding loan.

“With the help of Mitchell in identifying the lions, the zoo removed four of Zeus’ offspring in February 2002,” Mercer related. “The removal was no easy task, as the Prinsloo contingency bolted the gates to the lion enclosures, fired gunshots to stress

the animals, and assaulted the zoo veterinarians.”

Mitchell also gave evidence against Prinsloo in a case alleging that he and associate Ken Heuer “organized for wild cheetahs to be captured in Namibia and flown into South Africa,” Mercer said.

“Last year, an estimated 6,700 South African tourists killed nearly 54,000 animals,” Clare Hullis of Associated Press reported in October 2005. “The TRAFFIC wildlife trade monitoring network said 190 lions were hunted, worth an estimated \$3.3 million—or \$17,500 each. Nearly 5,500 kudus, valued at \$5.3 million, also were killed, along with 45 leopards worth an estimated \$250,000. The list of slain animals included baboons, giraffes, elephants, hippos, mongooses, porcupines, warthogs and zebras. Prices ranged from \$25 for the humble pigeon or quail to \$25,000 for the mighty white rhinoceros.”

“This is something that no civilized country can continue to tolerate,” South African environment minister Marthinus van Schalkwyk said.

In April 2005 van Schalkwyk appointed an expert panel to review canned hunts and other hunting-related issues. In October 2005 the panel recommended a complete ban on canned hunts; hunting in national parks or provincial reserves; hunting on any properties where captive-bred animals are kept; the use of dogs, traps, snares, bait, lights or luring sounds; and so-called ‘green’ hunting, in which the animals are felled with tranquilizer darts, for photo sessions, then released to be hunted again.

Van Schalkwyk promised that legislation would follow, but it has not yet been introduced.

Illinois Bureau of Animal Welfare case overload

CHICAGO—“Between 2000 and 2005, Illinois residents filed 3,282 complaints about animal welfare licensees to the state Department of Agriculture’s Bureau of Animal Welfare,” wrote *Chicago Tribune* staff reporter John Biemer on February 14, citing information obtained by activist Cherie Travis. The Bureau of Animal Welfare supervises pet stores, shelters, pounds, and breeding and boarding kennels.

“Just three of the 3,282 cases resulted in hearings,” Biemer continued, “and each time those actions were deemed unwarranted. Further,” Biemer noted, “Illinois has just seven investigators to check into complaints and make annual visits to the premises of 1,809 licensees.”

Said American SPCA representative Ledy VanKavage, “There’s no way in hell that just seven people can deal with that kind of caseload.”

Added Biemer, “When they find a licensee is not complying with state law, they have only two punitive options: they can either revoke or suspend the license. Those actions create a big problem: what do you do with the animals?”

A bill introduced by state representative Patti Bellock (R-Hinsdale) would enable the Bureau of Animal Welfare to levy fines ranging from \$200 to \$1,000 for violations not deemed severe enough to warrant license revocation or suspension.

Brenda Barnette leaves Tony LaRussa’s ARF

Brenda Barnette, executive director of **Tony LaRussa’s Animal Rescue Foundation** in Walnut Creek, California since mid-2003, resigned suddenly at the end of January 2006 after the death of her mother. Previously development director for the **San Francisco SPCA** and executive director of **Pets In Need** in Redwood City, California, Barnette at Tony LaRussa’s doubled program spending, halved overhead, and reduced the remaining debt owing for a \$16 million new shelter from \$6 million to \$3 million. Adoptions during her tenure increased from 456 before the new shelter opened to more than 1,800 in 2005.

New Jersey sues coin-can fundraiser

NEWARK—New Jersey Attorney General Zulima V. Farber and Consumer Affairs Director Kimberly Ricketts on February 1, 2006 sued seeking “civil monetary penalties and to enjoin the National Animal Welfare Foundation Inc. and its principal, Patrick G. Jemas, from any future charitable activities in New Jersey,” they announced in a joint news release.

“Between fiscal years 2002 and 2005, NAWF collected \$70,795 in canister donations,” Farber and Ricketts explained, “but spent \$75,891 on fundraising, payroll, meals, automobiles, printing, and other undefined areas. In only one fiscal year,” Farber and Ricketts continued, “did reported donations exceed reported expenses.”

Jemas’ activities came to light in September 2002 though a “phony organizations” alert issued by

Associated Humane Societies of New Jersey executive director Rosanne Trezza, then assistant director.

Following up, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** reported in March 2003 that the NAWF was incorporated in 1998 by Patrick G. Jemas and Gus C. Jemas, both of Metuchen, New Jersey, and William E. Helwig of Holmdel, New Jersey. **ANIMAL PEOPLE** found little trace of NAWF program service. The NAWF addresses turned out to be mail drops. The one IRS Form 990 it had filed was mostly blank.

“Jemas previously was barred from employment as a paid fund-raiser for the Associated Humane Societies,” Farber and Ricketts said, “following the state’s investigation into Associated Humane fundraising. In June 2005 Associated Humane agreed to pay Consumer Affairs \$138,057 and implement more than two dozen reforms to settle allegations that it violated the state Consumer Fraud Act and Charitable Registration & Investigation Act.”

Jemas was among many fundraisers of dubious history with whom former Associated Humane executive director Lee Bernstein did business, 1969-2003. Bernstein retired in March 2003 as the details surfaced, summarized in the April 2003 edition of **ANIMAL PEOPLE**.

NAWF and Jemas allegedly operated as paid fundraisers for other charities without being registered to do so, Farber and Ricketts continued.

“NAWF and Jemas also are alleged to have contracted with an unregistered independent paid fundraiser,” Farber and Ricketts charged, while failing to “direct, manage and control that fundraiser’s activities to ensure canister donations were accounted for and provided to NAWF.”

Waystation audit

The California Office of the Attorney General on February 14 ordered **Wildlife Waystation** founder **Martine Colette** to reimburse the Waystation \$64,128 for the care of her personal horses. “Colette can deduct that amount from \$140,000 the Waystation owes her from personal loans she made when the sanctuary was in financial trouble,” wrote *Los Angeles Daily News* staff writer **Kerry Cavanaugh**. “Also,” Cavanaugh said, “the Attorney General’s Office ordered the Waystation to correct information on its web site that said the refuge employs two part-time veterinarians, when in fact the Waystation has two vet techs.” The orders concluded a three-year audit of the Waystation by the **Charitable Trust Division** of the **California Department of Justice**.

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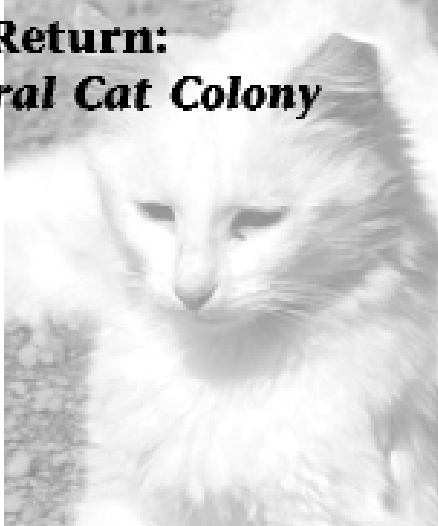
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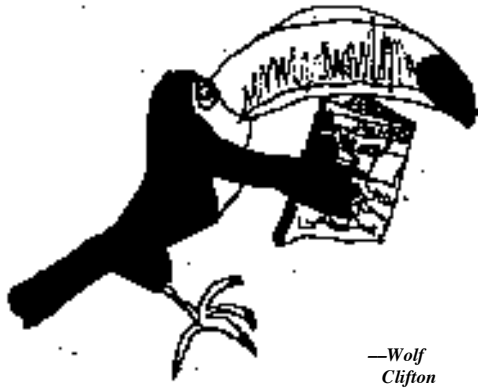


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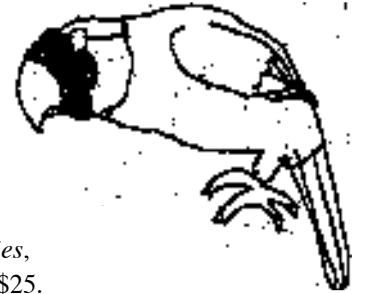
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Falcons, chickens, & the H5N1 avian influenza (from page 1)

"The report of H5N1 from falcons in Saudi Arabia and their possible infection by smuggled falcons is especially notable when coupled with an earlier incident involving H5N1-infected eagles who were smuggled from Thailand to Belgium," said Joseph P. Dudley, Ph.D., chief scientist for the EAI Corporation, a Virginia-based private security firm.

"U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service investigations have shown that there is a long-standing and well-established illegal global trade in falcons and other raptors, and that as long ago as 1984, individual falcons caught from the wild could command prices of \$10,000 to \$50,000 from buyers in Europe and the Middle East," Dudley continued. "Nonprofit organizations have estimated that the illicit trade in falcons from Central Asia to the Middle East and Gulf states may involve as many as 14,000 or more birds annually, and say that individual falcons of the most sought-after species can bring prices of \$500,000 or higher. News reports from October 2004 said that Russian police had intercepted and confiscated a consignment of 127 Saker falcons worth an estimated \$4.5 million from a commercial aircraft at a Russian military air base in Kyrgyzstan."

Agreed *World Birdwatch* editor Richard Thomas, "There is a lot of smuggling of Sakers from Central Asia to the Middle East, and what are they likely to be fed? I seem to recall that the H5N1-infected mountain hawk-eagles who were smuggled from Thailand to Belgium were believed to have been fed infected chicken before the flight."

Qatar, neighboring Saudi Arabia, banned traffic in falcons on February 1.

Other nations paid little attention to falconing—but falconing is practicing throughout Central Asia and the Middle East, and may be the missing link that enabled the dominant strain of H5N1 to move laterally across the region to Europe, without spreading to the northern and southern reaches of migratory bird routes.

In terms of numbers of birds involved, routine commerce in poultry dwarfs all other possible H5N1 vectors.

Nigeria banned poultry from residential areas in Lagos, the capital city, on February 16, and banned interstate poultry movements on February 21, after H5N1 appeared in six of the 36 Nigerian states within less than a week.

The Nigerian outbreak, unlike European outbreaks which might have been transmitted by migratory birds, almost certainly was caused by poultry trading.

"I would never rule out wild birds," Wildlife Conservation Society veterinary epidemiologist William B.

Karesh told *Washington Post* staff writer David Brown. "But I think we have to look at the most probable routes. The most probable would be poultry."

"There is no question that migratory birds are playing a role, but they are not the main players," agreed ecologist Peter Marra of the Migratory Bird Center at the National Zoo. Marra told Brown that more attention should be given to the movements of poultry and birds in the pet trade, because "That is where you can actually do something about it."

"We think someone may have imported or smuggled in contaminated birds," Nigerian agriculture minister Adamu Bello told the Lagos *Guardian*.

Noted Brown, "China, Nigeria and the United Nations Food & Agricultural Organization signed a \$22.7 million agreement in March 2003 to have 520 Chinese agriculture experts, including poultry technicians, help Nigerian farmers. Nigeria also imported live birds from China until January 2004, when the trade was banned due to H5N1 outbreaks in Asia."

Bello acknowledged at a news conference that despite the ban, "Birds come every day from China and Turkey."

#1 migratory species

A similar situation contributed to the resurgence of H5N1 in Indonesia, now second only to Vietnam in numbers of human victims.

As of February 22, 2006, H5N1 had hit 161 communities in 26 of the 33 Indonesian provinces, Agriculture Ministry director of health Syamsul Bachri said. Indonesia killed 16.2 million chickens in 2003, he added, or about 9% of the national flock, without lastingly containing H5N1.

"Almost no region in West Java is free from H5N1," Fatimah Resmiati of the West Java health office told the *Jakarta Post*, blaming the fast spread of the virus on poor control of the live poultry traffic.

"Globalisation has turned the chicken into the world's number one migratory bird species," said BirdLife International director of science Leon Bennun. "Movements of chickens around the world take place 365 days a year, unlike the seasonal migrations of wild birds," Bennun noted.

However, H5N1 rapidly crossed several regions where there is little legal commerce in poultry.

"While the overt and covert movements of commercial poultry clearly carry risks," reminded ProMED moderator Martin Hugh Jones, "we should not forget gladiatorial activi-

Hong Kong tries again

Hong Kong banned keeping chickens and ducks as pets, effective on February 20, 2006, after H5N1 was confirmed in 10 wild birds of four different species.

Hong Kong tried to ban and cull other bird species kept as pets when H5N1 first appeared in 1996, killing six residents, but many people released their pets rather than allowing them to be killed—which might have spread the disease if any of the pet birds had been infected.

Doing door-to-door inspections, the Hong Kong Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department found 42 illegal bird-keepers with 180 chickens and 57 other fowl in their possession, among the first 43,600 households visited. They also found 1,000 chickens at an illegal slaughterhouse.

The Hong Kong Health, Welfare, & Food Bureau asked the Legislative Council to ban live poultry sales by 2009, a goal the bureau has pursued for more than 10 years. Under a permit buy-back plan introduced in 2004, 272 of 814 live chicken vendors and 30 of 200 Hong Kong chicken growers have gone out of business, the bureau said.

ties. Cockfighting was the background to the Newcastle disease epidemics in the U.S. Southwest in 2002-2003," as well as a key factor in spreading H5N1 throughout Southeast Asia in 2003-2004.

Paraphrasing Bahrain SPCA president Dr Khalil Rajab, Geoffrey Bew of the *Gulf Daily News* reported on February 13 that "Dogs and cockerels are being brought to Bahrain from Southeast Asia to take part in illegal fights, thought to be coming across the King Fahad Causeway from Saudi Arabia or slipped past customs officers at Bahrain International Airport."

Rajab also mentioned illegal commerce in Southeast Asian birds as pets.

Daniel Foggo and Matthew Campbell of *The Times of London* on January 22 disclosed that although cockfighting was banned in Britain in 1835, "Villages in northern France where cockfighting is still permitted have become a magnet for day-tripping British devotees of the illegal bloodsport," an obvious potential vector for H5N1 now that infected birds have been found in that part of France.

H5N1 reappeared in Malaysia in early February for the first time since 2004. Selangor and Federal Territory Poultry Traders Association adviser Dr Lee Chong Meng suggested that the outbreak, in Gombak, might have resulted from villagers smuggling in fighting cocks from Thailand—which caused the last known outbreak, in Kota Baru.

H5N1 may halt European movement to free-range poultry-raising

LONDON—The Tower of London ravens will be indoor cage birds until the H5N1 crisis subsides, says raven keeper Derrick Coyle.

Legend has it that if the ravens ever leave the Tower, the British monarchy will fall—and keeping the ravens indoors sets an example for poultry farmers.

Just as animal welfare con-

cerns made "free range" a household phrase and free range poultry growing began to take market share from intensive confinement, H5N1 might kill the whole concept.

"In the protection zone," to be established around all H5N1 outbreaks within the European Union, the European Commission decreed on February 12, 2006,

chickens a lot," said her father, Abdulkarim Mamuk. "She held them in her arms."

Continued Harvey, "Her oldest brother Sadun said Sumeyya loved animals and took care of puppies and kittens.

When her mother saw Sumeyya holding one of the dying chickens, she yelled at her and hit the girl to get her away. Sumeyya began to cry. She wiped her tears with the hand she'd been using to comfort the dying chicken," and fell ill herself.

Prompt treatment at the Van 100th Year Hospital saved Sumeyya Mamuk, Harvey reported.

A little girl who loved her chickens

An irony of the H5N1 global epidemic is that many of the youngest human victims are those with the most positive attitudes toward poultry—like Sumeyya Makuk of Van, Turkey.

"Sumeyya Mamuk considered the chickens in her yard to be beloved pets. The 8-year-old girl fed them, petted them, and took care of them," wrote Benjamin Harvey of Associated Press. "When they started to get sick and die, she hugged them and tenderly kissed them goodbye.

"The chickens were sick. One had puffed up and she touched it. We told her not to. She loved

"poultry must be kept indoors."

Agreed United Nations Food & Agricultural Organization senior officer of animal production and health Juan Lubroth, "People need to ensure that poultry are roofed-in to avoid contact with wild birds, and should not mix chickens with other species, such as ducks," since H5N1 is most likely to mutate into forms that can easily spread when it has the opportunity to move from one species to another.

Austria, Bosnia, France, Germany, Greece, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Sweden, and Switzerland have all now ordered that poultry must be kept indoors. Not all are EC members, but all have substantial poultry commerce with the EC.

British policy is that birds must be confined only if H5N1 actually reaches Britain. From 10% to 15% of the estimated 200 million birds on British farms are believed to be free-range.

The National Farmers' Union contends that ordering an end to free-range poultry growing would be "a massive over-reaction."

The Austrian confinement order came after the Noah's Ark sanctuary in Graz illegally housed a swan from a region with known H5N1 outbreaks with two chickens and three ducks. All six birds died, prompting the health ministry to slaughter and test the remains of 30 other birds kept at the sanctuary.

The Cairo Zoo, where hundreds of avian species mingle, was closed for two weeks on February 18 after six of 82 recent bird deaths were confirmed to have been due to H5N1.

Egyptian officials admitted on February 20 that H5N1 was still spreading. "More than 90% of the cases so far have been found in poultry kept in cages on roofs or balconies," said health minister Hatem Mustafa el-Gabaly, urging that children be kept off of roofs—where

poultry yards often double as playgrounds.

As well as ordering birds inside, Bosnia, Croatia, Greece, Iraq, and Turkey have temporarily banned bird hunting.

France pledged to vaccinate 900,000 factory farmed birds against H5N1, but there is growing doubt that vaccination can stop it.

A joint report by 29 eminent virologists, published online on February 7 in *Proceedings of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences*, warned that H5N1 has developed into four distinct gene strains, and has probably been endemic in southern China since 1996, when a single strain from Guangdong geese was isolated. The more strains there are, the higher the probability of mutations developing that can trigger a global pandemic.



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BLM asks beef ranchers to buy wild horses

WASHINGTON D.C.—Bureau of Land Management director Kathleen Clarke and Public Lands Council president Mike Byrne on February 21, 2006 sent letters to more than 15,000 holders of BLM grazing permits, asking them to buy some of the 7,000 wild horses and burros whom the BLM was directed to sell “without limitation” by a stealth rider slipped through Congress in November 2004.

Equine advocates decried the letter as a proposed “final solution” for wild horses and burros.

“Any excess animal or the remains of an excess animal shall be sold, if the excess animal is more than 10 years of age or the excess animal has been offered unsuccessfully for adoption at least three times,” stipulated the rider, introduced by Senator Conrad Burns (R-Montana).

The Public Lands Council “represents permittees who hold leases and permits to graze livestock on the federal lands in the West administered by the Bureau of Land Management and the United States Forest Service. It also coordinates the federal-lands policies of the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association, American Sheep Industry Association and the Association of National Grasslands,” says the PLC letterhead.

BLM spokesperson Tom Gorey told Becky Bohrer of Associated Press that the BLM will ask grazing leaseholders to pay \$10 apiece for the horses and burros.

Responded the American Wild Horse Preservation Campaign, a 30-group coalition, “The very people who lobby tirelessly to remove wild horses from public lands at taxpayers’ expense are now urged to buy the horses at bargain prices. Ranchers did not want to share public land allotments with these horses in the first place. Do we really think they are now going to let them graze the allotments out of the goodness of their hearts? Who better than the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association to funnel wild horses to slaughter?”

“It is disturbing,” the American Wild Horse Preservation Campaign alert continued, “that this announcement comes on the heels of the USDA’s decision to allow horse slaughter to continue, despite Congress overwhelmingly passing an amendment banning such practice for one fiscal year. The horse slaughter ban was vehemently opposed by the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association. Without independent oversight and incentives to ensure the ranchers will provide long-term care for these horses, we can’t help but see some-



BLM corral, Pyramid Lake, Nevada. (Kim Bartlett) thing sinister at play.”

Congress excised funding for federal inspection of the three remaining U.S. horse slaughterhouses from the 2006 USDA budget, but the slaughterhouse owners offered to pay for the inspectors themselves in order to remain in business.

THE WEST AIN’T BIG ENOUGH FOR RANCHERS, WOLVES, GRIZZLIES, ELK, & BISON (from page 1)

reintroduction of Mexican gray wolves to Arizona and New Mexico. Defenders also pays for stock losses to grizzly bears.

Ranchers argue, however, that they lose many animals whose remains go unfound, meaning that the losses go uncompensated.

Albert Sommers of the Upper Green River Cattle Association told Casper *Star-Tribune* correspondent Cat Urbigkit in January 2006 that “total calf loss due to grizzly predation from 1995 to 2004 was estimated to be a minimum of 520 calves” Urbigkit wrote, “with a financial impact of \$260,000. Compensation was provided for only 235 calves, for a total of \$117,500. Total calf loss from wolf predation was estimated at 177 calves, with a minimum financial impact of \$88,500. Yet only 28 confirmed wolf-killed calves, with a value of \$14,000, were eligible for compensation from Defenders.”

Sommers argued that grizzlies kill 3.8 calves for every one whose remains are found, and that wolves kill 6.8.

“The Wyoming Game & Fish Department pays compensation for 3.5 calves for each confirmed kill,” Urbigkit said.

Defenders of Wildlife representative Suzanne Stone told Urbigkit that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service confirmed 429 cattle deaths and 1,074 sheep deaths in the northern Rockies due to wolf predation from 1987 to 2004. Defenders paid ranchers for the loss of 416 cattle and 1,323 sheep.

PREDATORS IN WYOMING

Among the states included in the federal delisting proposal, only Montana and Oregon have state plans that will “continue to maintain wolf populations in a responsible manner,” said Defenders of Wildlife in a prepared statement.

“The potential delisting cannot be finalized until Wyoming’s wolf management plan has been approved,” said Fish & Wildlife Service director Dale Hall. “We cannot move forward until Wyoming’s plan ensures a viable wolf population.” Hall said that Wyoming must classify wolves in a manner enabling Wyoming Game & Fish Department to limit human-caused wolf deaths, and must “clearly commit” to accepting 15 resident wolf packs, including those within Yellowstone, whose management will remain a federal duty.

Wyoming currently classifies wolves as predators, subject to extermination by the state Department of Agriculture except on federal land.

“I do not intend to yield to federal blackmail,” responded Wyoming Governor Dave Freudenthal, to Mike Stark of the *Billings Gazette*, “and I believe the legislature is going to be no more inclined than I am.”

Wyoming attorney general Patrick Crank in March 2005 argued in a legal opinion that predators, including wolves, “are considered wildlife and are held in trust by the state. Further, the state has given local predatory animal districts control over predatory animals, including those that prey upon wildlife—not just livestock,” summarized Brodie Farquhar of the Casper *Star-Tribune*.

Based on that view, the Wyoming state house Joint Agriculture, Public Lands and Water Resources Interim Committee on February 16 asked the state legislature to approve a \$10 million expansion of the state predator control program. The Wyoming Animal Damage Management Board, formed in 1999, had a 2005 budget of \$230,000.

Commissioners in seven Montana counties in January 2006 approved resolutions recommending that Montana should take similar measures.

IDAHO WANTS WOLVES GONE

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service on January 5, 2006 turned over wolf management in Idaho to the state Department of Fish & Game. Within days Idaho officials pledged to kill as many as 51 of 60 wolves living along the Montana border to boost the number of elk available to human hunters, and sought federal permission to radio collar 16 wolves from six packs in the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness, after tranquilizer darting them from helicopters.

U.S. Forest Service regional director Jack Troyer said the wolf collaring plan required further study.

“Wolves are the biggest single issue we’ve heard from hunters, almost since the day of reintroduction. They’re the folks who pay the bills at Fish and Game. So we listen to what they say,” Idaho Fish and Game Wildlife Bureau chief Jim Unsworth admitted to Miller of Associated Press.

The elk population north of Yellowstone has fallen from about 17,000 to 9,500 since 1995, according to research by Michigan Technological University wildlife ecologist John Vucetich—but Vucetich concluded that even though wolves eat mainly elk, “You don’t need wolves in the picture at all to explain the drop,” due to regional drought.

Historical data suggests that elk took advantage of abundant second growth after fires and logging to far exceed their usual population levels in northern Idaho during recent decades, and could be expected to decline as the new forest matures.

The Idaho Department of Fish & Game blames wolves for the elk population crash. Among 64 adult elk cows whom the department radio-collared between 2002 and 2004, wolves killed eight of the 25 who died.

Nez Perce Tribe natural resource manager Aaron Miles told Associated Press that the study was “junk science,” with “no peer review, jumping from one conclusion to the next.”

But Idaho Anti-Wolf Coalition founder Ron Gillette told the Spokane *Spokesman-Review* that he intends to petition to place on the next state ballot an initiative seeking to extirpate wolves from Idaho “by any means possible,” and to close the state Office of Species Conservation.

The Idaho state legislature in 2001 passed a resolution asking that wolves be removed from the state.

BEARS, WOLVES, BISON

Similar controversy surrounds grizzly bears, whose numbers in the Yellowstone region have increased from about 136 in 1975, when they were listed as an endangered species, to circa 580 in 2004. Grizzlies are also widely blamed in part for the elk decline.

Restoring wolves and grizzly bears in the northern Rockies has certainly not lastingly



The Yellowstone bison are descended from one of the few remnant herds left in the wild after the bison slaughters of the late 19th century. They have been protected since 1902, when only 22 to 30 remained. (Kim Bartlett)

reduced the Yellowstone National Park bison population, which reached a record high in the first winter after wolves returned to Yellowstone, fluctuated for several years, and is again at a recorded peak.

Both wolves and grizzlies are major predators of both bison and elk. In theory, this should cause ranchers to welcome the predators’ recovery, as a first line of defense against brucellosis, endemic among both bison and elk in the Yellowstone basin.

Called undulant fever in humans, brucellosis can cause stillbirths and miscarriages, and is much feared by the livestock industry. By federal law, livestock transported out of states with brucellosis among domestic herds must be tested, to avoid spreading the disease. This cuts significantly into the often thin profit margins for open-range beef.

Because bison are closely related to domestic cattle, ranchers tend to be especially anxious about contact between them—although there has never been a confirmed case of brucellosis passing to domestic cattle from wild bison.

For that reason, the Montana state government has long struggled to keep bison from entering the state from the northern edge of Yellowstone. Immigrant bison have been killed by a variety of methods over the years, none popular with the public and many attracting strong protest despite the hardships of staging demonstrations in the depths of a Yellowstone winter.

From January 10, 2006 to February 16, 935 bison were captured by federal and state personnel at Yellowstone’s northern boundary. Eighty-seven calves were held at a research station in Corwin Springs, Montana. The remainder, amounting to 17% of the estimated record Yellowstone population of 4,900, were trucked to slaughter.

The USDA Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service distributed meat from the bison to 28 Native American tribes in six states, reported Mike Stark of the *Billings Gazette*.

At least 40 bison were shot by hunters participating in the first Montana bison season since 1991. The public bison hunt ended on February 15. Participants were required to hunt on foot, and were not escorted by game wardens, unlike in past Montana bison seasons.

Three participants were cited for alleged unsportsmanlike conduct, including former Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, & Parks chief of operations Charles “Rich” Clough. Clough, retired since June 2001, pleaded innocent to allegedly illegally shooting a bison on January 16 near Gardiner, 173 yards outside the designated hunting area.

Wrote Scott McMillion of the *Bozeman Daily Chronicle*, “Clough told wardens he did not know he strayed (continued on page 19)



Grizzlies. (Kim Bartlett)

WEST AIN'T BIG ENOUGH FOR RANCHERS & WILDLIFE *(from page 18)*

outside the boundary, but there was a post on the line with a sign on it, Park County attorney Brett Linneweber said."

Conflicts among the federal bison capture teams, Montana hunters, and protesters led by the Buffalo Field Campaign were reportedly few, peaking in early January when 40 bison stampeded over frozen Hebgen Lake, near West Yellowstone, allegedly after staff from the National Park Service, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Department, and Montana Department of Livestock hazed them away from the park boundary with snowmobiles. Fourteen bison fell through the ice; two drowned.

High as the bison toll was in 2006, it remained short of the 1996-1997 toll of 1,087 killed. Only 101 were killed in 2005, as an easier winter meant fewer bison tried to leave Yellowstone.

South of Yellowstone, National Elk Refuge manager Barry Reiswig told Becky Bohrer of Associated Press that the 948 bison now dividing time between the refuge and Grand Teton National Park represent the docu-

mented high.

"Our society now has to make a choice between how many elk and how many bison it wants. The pie is only so big," Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance executive director Franz Camenzind told Bohrer.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and National Park Service in mid-2005 proposed introducing bison hunting to the National Elk Refuge to help reduce the bison herd to between 450-500 animals. Wyoming already permits hunters to shoot bison who leave the refuge. The annual toll is 30-50.

ELK & CWD

Problematic as bison are, controlling the brucellosis threat from elk is even more difficult, not only because elk are more difficult to contain, but also because hunters want abundant elk, the most hunted trophy species throughout the Rockies.

For decades the risk of elk spreading brucellosis was ignored. In 2003 and 2004, however, elk are believed to have transmitted brucellosis to cattle on several western

Wyoming ranches.

The Wyoming Game & Fish Department in February 2006 began capturing and testing female elk for brucellosis at the Muddy Creek feeding station near Yellowstone. Brucellosis carriers are slaughtered. The exercise is intended, in part, to find out just what percentage of elk may be brucellosis carriers. The expected number of elk to be killed this winter is about 300. Depending on the findings, more elk may be killed in the future.

"We shouldn't be trying to slaughter our way out of this problem when there is an obvious and much less draconian solution, which is to phase out the feeding which causes these high disease levels in the first place," EarthJustice lawyer Tim Preso told Ben Neary of Associated Press.

Represented by EarthJustice, the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, the Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance, and the Wyoming Outdoor Council on February 10 filed a lawsuit asking that the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management be required to do an environmental review of elk feeding.

"The bottom line is, with elk being shipped to slaughter due to brucellosis, and with chronic wasting disease looming on the horizon, business as usual is not acceptable any more," Preso told reporters.

Chronic wasting disease, first identified among captive-reared deer and elk in Colorado in 1966, now occurs throughout the Rockies, is established as far south as White Sands, New Mexico, and has jumped to other states where ranches deer and elk are often hunted, including New York and Wisconsin.

"The prevalence of CWD in free-ranging elk in Wyoming has ranged from 2% to 3%," reported Casper *Star-Tribune* staff writer Jeff Gearino on February 18, after the Wyoming Game & Fish board of commissioners approved a new CWD management plan.

"Experts warn that the disease could occur at much higher rates among elk on feedgrounds," Gearino continued, "because feeding concentrates animals in artificially high numbers. Originally, the draft plan warned that 'scientific research has indicated that the prevalence of CWD in captive elk can exceed 50%,'" Gearino said. "The 50 percent figure has been removed from the revised plan," in an apparent concession to elk ranchers.

Early test results indicate that up to 36% of the elk congregating at the Muddy Creek feeding station are now brucellosis car-

riers, up from 29% according to samples drawn between 1993 and 2004.

The Muddy Creek feeding station, the National Elk Refuge, and more than a dozen other elk feeding sites were established early in the 20th century to help maintain high winter populations for the benefit of hunters—and to keep starving elk from invading ranches, competing with cattle for hay and forage.

The feeding stations proved so successful in preventing winter die-offs that after wolves were exterminated in the Yellowstone region, along with most grizzly bears and pumas, Yellowstone rangers culled 26,000 elk to prevent overpopulation between 1935 and 1968. Another 45,000 elk were shot by hunters just outside the park. —Merritt Clifton



Yellowstone bull elk & cow. (Kim Bartlett)

Wisconsin and Michigan

The heavily publicized Yellowstone region wolf wars have parallels in the upper Midwest, the one part of the Lower 48 states where wolves were never killed out.

After wolves gained Endangered Species Act protection in 1974, the Wisconsin wolf population continued to struggle for a decade, but now has increased to as many as 455, a fourfold increase in 10 years, coinciding with abundant deer and falling numbers of human deer hunters.

Wolves in the upper Midwest in April 2003 were federally downlisted from "endangered" to "threatened," but the "endangered" status was judicially restored in January 2005. In the interim, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources killed 70 alleged "problem" wolves.

Humane Society of the U.S. conservation consultant Karlyn Atkinson Berg told Lee Berquist of the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* in February that Wisconsin wolf numbers warrant downlisting.

"Unfortunately," Berg said, "the history of wolves is that if a wolf kills one sheep, then people want to kill 100 wolves," she said. Farmers, Berg observed, are "never required to exercise good husbandry," to prevent predation on unattended animals.

There are now about 405 wolves on the Michigan Upper Peninsula, say state biologists, who believe the Michigan population has reached the carrying capacity of the habitat.

Alaska Board of Game scraps own accountability rules to allow shooting wolves from aircraft

ANCHORAGE—Ten years after Alaskans banned hunting wolves from aircraft by ballot initiative, 157 pilot/gunner teams are shooting wolves from aircraft by authorization of the Alaska Division of Wildlife Conservation and Board of Game—as hunters have every winter since 2003/2004—and there is nothing that Friends of Animals can do through the law to stop it, Alaska Superior Court Judge Sharon Gleason ruled on January 31, 2006.

On January 17, 2006, three years after FoA sued seeking to stop the airborne wolf hunt, Gleason ruled that the Board of Game violated its own rules by failing to publish written justification for it, including explanations of why alternatives to lethal control such as wolf sterilization could not be used.

The 2006 airborne wolf hunt was suspended for two weeks after only 24 wolves were killed, out of a quota of more than 500. The quota exceeds the total of 445 wolves killed during the first three winters of the program.

"This may be a clear indication that the state is inflating the number of wolves in these areas, which we have suspected, as there have been few if any surveys," said Karen Deatherage, Alaska representative for the Defenders of Wildlife.

"There are far fewer wolves than they thought," said FoA president Priscilla Feral.

On January 29, however, the Board of Game at an emergency meeting "just flat-out repealed requirements for public notice and input regarding wolf and bear control. It also repealed all requirements and limitations that apply gen-

erally to wolf control," fumed Feral.

Gleason then denied an FoA petition for an injunction against the action, which amounted to retroactively undoing the Board of Game accountability procedures to allow wolf-strafing to resume.

The Board of Game is appointed by the Alaska governor. Current Governor Frank Murkowski has favored airborne wolf hunting throughout his political career.

Division of Wildlife Conservation director Matt Robus contends that the Alaska wolf population has risen since an FoA-backed ballot initiative banned shooting wolves from the air in 1996.

Officially, Alaska now has 7,000 to 11,000 wolves. Official estimates have agreed on a minimum of about 7,200 wolves surviving each winter since 1991. The higher estimates appear to be based on the numbers of wolves who go into each winter, including spring pups.

Hunters nonetheless blame wolves for regional scarcities of caribou and moose. Predator populations rise and fall with the abundance of prey, while prey populations tend to fluctuate mainly due to

habitat changes, such as global warming and maturing tree canopy, which tends to grow beyond the reach of caribou and moose within 20 to 30 years after tracts are logged.

Explosive growth of a predator population typically follows either explosive growth of the prey base, as result of natural factors that increase the carrying capacity of the habitat, or because the predator population has been artificially thinned, so that females are able to bear and nurse larger litters.

Board of Game member Ted Spraker of Soldotna argued at the emergency meeting called in response to the January 17 ruling that the number of wolves killed in most of the five target areas has more than doubled during the past two years through use of aerial wolf control. Statewide, the toll jumped from about 150 to 276.

"This clearly points out that even though trappers do the best they can, and hunters do the best they can, it does take aerial shooting to get the number of wolves stated in our objectives," Spraker said.

"Airplanes are the only thing that work," agreed Wasilla

board member Cliff Judkins.

What Spraker and Judkins actually appeared to be describing, however, is a phenomenon known to wildlife managers as "The more you shoot, the more you get."

The effect was documented among coyotes in Texas more than 50 years ago, as federal Animal Damage Control agents gradually discovered that the females among the most heavily persecuted coyote populations within a few years increased their average litter size from four to seven.

Only if more than 70% of an animal population fails to reproduce will the population drop. Aiming to reduce regional wolf numbers by 40% to 90%, the Board of Game and Alaska Division of Wildlife wolf-killing policies most often result in killing fewer than 70%, allowing survivors to rebuild their populations quickly.

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Hitting fur in the high Himalayas

NEW DELHI, CHENNAI—Rajasthan police on February 3, 2006 arrested Nepal-based Tibetan wildlife trafficker Tshering Nema, also known as Neema Kampa, in north Delhi, finding him in alleged possession of the skins of 34 leopards and four otters.

“The consignment was en route to Siliguri in West Bengal,” reported the Times of India News Network, “to be then dispatched to Tibet through Nepal.”

Identified by the Indo Asian News Service as “an associate of notorious poacher Sansar Chand,” Nema is believed to have been a kingpin in the gang that in 2004 exterminated tigers within the Sariska tiger reserve, significantly reduced the Ranthambore reserve population, and poached down the populations at 12 of India’s 25 other tiger reserves.

Nema allegedly relayed poached pelts to Tibet via his father, Tamdin Vangyal of Nepal. Rajasthan Police spokesperson A.K. Jain said that Vangyal was also in Delhi when Nema was nabbed, but eluded arrest.

“We have learnt that Vangyal was earlier arrested in Nepal with a consignment of 100 rhino skins, but was released,” Jain said.

First arrested for tiger pelt trafficking in 1974, ringleader Sansar Chand drew a five-year prison term in 2004, was released on bail pending appeal, jumped bail, and was re-arrested on June 30, 2005.

The magnitude of Indian wildlife trafficking into Tibet became apparent when “Tibetan officials in 2004 intercepted 32 tiger skins, 579 leopard skins, and 665 otter skins in one shipment,” recounted BBC News.

“The consignment clearly came from India,” added Sridhar Kumaraswami of *Asian Age*. “Investigators found a copy of the Delhi edition of a leading national newspaper stuck to the back of the skins.”

Jailing Chand and several associates only slowed the traffic. On September 2, 2005, the Environmental News Service reported, the Royal Nepal Army intercepted five tiger skins, 36 leopard skins, 238 otter skins and 113 kilos of tiger and leopard bones in the Rasuwa district of Nepal, bordering Tibet.

While tiger, leopard, and otter skins are smuggled into Tibet, the pelts of endangered Tibetan antelope, called chiru in India, are smuggled out. The pelts are shaved and the fine fur woven into a soft fabric called shahtoosh, used in shawls selling for up to \$15,000—twice the price of a Chinese car.

Swiss customs in June 2005 seized 537 shahtoosh shawls in one shipment. The

pelts of from three to five chiru were used to make each shawl.

Increased coordination of Indian and Chinese anti-poaching and anti-trafficking work has paid off.

In August 2005, International Fund for Animal Welfare China representative Aster Xiang Li wrote, “The Kekexili Special Anti-Poaching Force unearthed more than 100 Tibetan antelope pelts during a raid. Also in August, New Delhi customs officials discovered an unspecified amount of shahtoosh wool mixed in with bales of sheep wool.”

While Indian courts have only just begun to take poaching and wildlife trafficking seriously, Chinese sentences can be stiff. In December 2005, for example, the Xinhua News Agency reported that a Tibet court had issued 13-year prison terms to retired doctor Cering Toinzhub, 57, and Baima Cering, apparently his hunting guide. They allegedly shot 59 chiru in February and March 2005.

Until very recently, however, market demand for poached pelts was strong enough to encourage poachers and traffickers throughout the Himalayas to take the risk of receiving one of the occasional heavy sentences in a trade that was scarcely hidden.

Soon after the Nepalese pelt seizures, the Environmental Investigation Agency and Wildlife Protection Society of India released videos and photographs documenting the extent of the Tibetan traffic.

Ceremonial robes

“In 46 shops surveyed in Lhasa,” the Tibetan capital, “54 leopard skin costumes known locally as *chubas*, and 24 tiger skin *chubas* were openly displayed,” summarized the Environmental News Service. “Seven whole fresh leopard skins were presented for sale and, within 24 hours, investigators were offered three whole, fresh tiger skins.”

At regional horse festivals held in four Tibetan cities during August 2005, the investigators videotaped Tibetan officials, a teacher and children wearing tiger skins.

The trade involves nearby parts of China proper. “In one street alone in Linxia, China, more than 60 whole snow leopard skins and over 160 fresh leopard skins were openly on display, with many more skins rolled up in the back,” the EIA investigators told the Environmental News Service. “They also found over 1,800 otter skins.”

Time magazine in April published a photo of chanting Tibetan Buddhists wearing

tiger and leopard skins. The photo prompted the Dalai Lama, the spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhism, to join with Care for the Wild International and the Wildlife Trust of India in speaking out against the killing and trafficking.

“It is in the Pali and Sanskrit tradition to show love and compassion for all living beings,” the Dalai Lama said at a New Delhi press conference. “Because of our follies a large number of our animals are killed, and we must stop this.”

Said Care for the Wild chief executive Barbara Maas, “If it was just us saying, ‘Oh please don’t do it,’ I’m not sure it would do much good. His Holiness will make all the difference.”

Long criticized for not speaking out more on animal issues, the Dalai Lama experimented with vegetarianism in 1995, then returned to vegetarianism with more evident conviction early in 2005.

“When you go back to your respective places, remember what I said, and never use, sell, or buy wild animals, their products or derivatives,” the Dalai Lama said, according to the London *Independent*.

“The Dalai Lama has been speaking to the Tibetans about not eating meat and saving wildlife,” affirmed Seattle practicing Tibetan Buddhist Eileen Weintraub in an e-mail to **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, after joining an estimated 100,000 fellow devotees at the 2006 Kalachakra celebration of Tibetan Buddhism in Amravati, Andhra Pradesh, India.

The events this year were “all vegetarian,” Weintraub said, with “no chickens for sale, no furs, no overloaded bullocks.

“Many elderly people had come down from Tibet to see the Dalai Lama, who still cannot visit Tibet,” Weintraub elaborated, “and he asked them to help protect the wildlife. The Wildlife Trust of India also postered the event in Tibetan. The Dalai Lama spoke almost angrily about the Chinese destruction of native wildlife and their treatment of animals. He mentioned that six people had died during the Kalachakra due to old age, and that we should pray for them.

“However,” he said, “the Indian government killed many stray dogs before the event [in violation of Indian law], in order to ‘clean up’ the area, and who, the Dalai Lama asked, would pray for them? He asked us to do this. He spoke of an insect that he tried protecting from the Kalachakra crowds, to no avail, but joked that it is hard to find compassion for mosquitoes.”

At the Kalachakra, Weintraub helped to introduce members of Tibetan Volunteers for Animals to representatives of various chapters of the Indian organization People for Animals.

More than 7,000 Tibetans attended the Kalachakra, many of them trekking illegally through insurrection-torn Nepal on unmarked trails.

“On January 31, two weeks after the Kalachakra, the first report emerged from Tibet of someone burning furs,” the *Independent* recounted. “The movement quickly snowballed. People have been emerging from their



Asian clawed otters. (Kim Bartlett)

homes,” in the depth of winter, “and burning furs and animal skins worth as much as £6,000 in the streets. Many have given up their *chubas*, traditional robes that can cost the equivalent of two years’ wages for the average Tibetan, and watched happily as they went up in smoke. Not only tiger skins, but also traditional Tibetan *chubas* lined with leopard, otter and fox fur are being burnt.

“Reports from within Tibet say that over the past two weeks the price of tiger skins and other furs has dropped drastically.”

“For the last five days, during the great prayer festival of Molam Quinmo, people have been burning Tibetan garments made from animal furs,” Wildlife Trust of India representative Pasang Lhamu Bhutia confirmed to the *Times of India*.

While the conflagrations may mark a turning point in the fight against poaching and wildlife trafficking, they also embarrassed the Chinese government.

“The recent craze for the robes has been driven by a different, urban section of Tibetan society,” reported *The Independent*. “While most Tibetans are still poor, in the cities there is growing wealth, and that has fuelled a fashion for the robes.”

“This trend has less to do with old customs than with new money,” World Wildlife Fund China director Dawa Tsering told *The Independent*.

Customers for fur chupas include not only Tibetans, but also “Chinese people traveling to Tibet especially to buy tiger skins to decorate their homes, and even some Europeans,” *The Independent* alleged.

“Although it appears that it is the Dalai Lama alone who has the moral authority to turn Tibetans so dramatically against animal skins, his involvement is causing trouble with the Chinese authorities,” *The Independent* continued, “who regard the exiled spiritual leader as a threat, despite his calls in recent years for rapprochement.”

Reported Yudhajit Shankar Das, New Delhi correspondent to *The Statesman*, of Kolkata, on February 17, “According to sources close to the Wildlife Trust of India in Dharamshala, large numbers of troops and police are patrolling the streets of Rebkong Quinghai Province, to prevent a bonfire of skins that was originally scheduled for February 12. The Chinese authorities, who have banned even possession of the Dalai Lama’s picture, apparently saw the planned gathering and bonfire as a sign of support for the ousted leader.”

“The Chinese government reportedly banned the burnings last week,” added Ashwini Bhatia of Associated Press, “and, according to an Indian animal rights group, arrested nine people for ‘public unrest and colluding with the Dalai Lama.’”

“An estimated \$75 million worth of animal skins have been burnt in eastern Tibet alone,” 35-year-old monk Lobsang Choephel told Bhatia. The monk bootlegged out of Tibet video footage showing “thousands of Tibetans gathered in the Kirti Monastery in eastern Tibet, throwing traditional Tibetan dresses lined with animal fur into a giant bonfire,” Bhatia wrote.

ABC isn’t rocket science, Visakha SPCA founder Nath tells Indian missile program architect Kalam

VISAKHAPATNAM—“In anticipation of your visit to our city,” Visakha SPCA founder Pradeep Kumar Nath told Indian President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam on February 13, 2006, “Visakhapatnam municipality ordered and funded the killing of dogs along the parade route. Thirty dogs were murdered, and of these, 29 had been vaccinated and sterilized by our Animal Birth Control program.

“Unfortunately, this was not an isolated incident,” Nath continued in a letter hand-delivered to Kalam. “The municipality has on numerous occasions funded this sort of activity. Killing dogs is illegal. Just as important, it is not effective. A murdered dog leaves a space, and into that space will soon come another dog, who will have not been vaccinated or sterilized, and is more aggressive.”

Nath explained to Kalam, who pioneered the Indian missile program, that the Viskha SPCA has vaccinated and sterilized more than 20,250 dogs; has euthanized 4,396 dogs who were believed to be dangerously violent, rabid, or otherwise terminally ill; has achieved a 75% reduction in the number of pregnant

female dogs at large in Visakhapatnam, with an 80% reduction in the number of puppies; and has reduced dog bite complaints from 100 a day to 10 per day.

“Finally,” Nath said, “since the Visakha SPCA has taken over the dog-catching, we have seen a reduction in the number of dog-related complaints from 60 per day to only 2 per day.”

One need not be a rocket scientist to appreciate the results of well-managed ABC programs, but People for Animals founder Maneka Gandhi drafted Indian satellite tracking system builder Chinny Krishna several days earlier to present a similar case to the Wayanad District Legal Services Authority in Kerala.

As longtime head of the Blue Cross of India, founded by his parents, Krishna also pioneered the ABC program concept in 1964, 33 years before it became national policy.

“No sterilisation or dog-killing has taken place in Wayanad and in many other Kerala districts in the last six years,” wrote R. Madhavan Nair of *The Hindu*. However, on December 22, 2005, Nair recounted, “the Wayanad District Legal Services Authority directed the killing of all stray dogs if local bodies failed to comply with the ABC program rules. The Animal Husbandry Department told the Authority that local bodies did not have the resources to comply.”

Said Mrs. Gandhi, “The court in Wayanad cannot do this. There are federal laws and five High Court judgements saying that stray dogs have to be sterilized and vaccinated.”

A similar confrontation developed in Arunachal Pradesh last summer, in the extreme north-east of India, after Papumpare deputy commissioner B. Gadi ordered residents of Itanagar, the state capital, to keep their dogs indoors.

“After August 12,” Gadi ordained, “if any stray dog is found on the road, the police will shoot it. In the absence of any society working for the stray dogs,” Gadi insisted, “we have no option other than shoot them.”

The order was rescinded at the last minute after journalist Azam Siddique distributed copies of the relevant laws to public officials and fellow reporters.



Indian President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam meets Pradeep Kumar Nath. (Visakha SPCA)



We have rescued many dogs and cats, including this mother and her kittens. Your donation to our sanctuary fund will help us save many more from the terrible cruelty of the Korean dog and cat meat markets. We have bought the land to build Korea's first world-class animal shelter and hospital. A donor paid for the foundation with a promise to put on the roof if we can raise the money to build the middle.

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WHY THE TAIL-DOCKING OF DOGS SHOULD BE PROHIBITED AND CEPHALOPODS & DECAPOD CRUSTACEANS: THEIR CAPACITY TO EXPERIENCE PAIN & SUFFERING

Advocates for Animals (10 Queensferry Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4PG, Scotland, U.K.), 2005.

Rule #1 for headline writers is that brevity is the soul of wit.

Rule #2 is, "Never use a word that your readers will not instantly recognize."

Bad titling unfairly handicaps *Why The Tail-Docking Of Dogs Should Be Prohibited*, which would be both more succinct and grammatically correct without either "the" or "of."

Bad titling outright sabotages *Cephalopods & Decapod Crustaceans: Their Capacity To Experience Pain & Suffering*.

If you know what a cephalopod is, raise a tentacle. If you know what "decapod crustaceans" are, raise a claw.

At 16 and 20 letter-sized pages,

respectively, these new Advocates for Animals handbooks are exactly what activists need when urging lawmakers to ban tail-docking, or are speaking up for octopi, squid, crabs, lobsters, and crayfish.

Each handbook collects the relevant facts, cites key studies with footnotes, and helps activists counter the standard arguments for excusing cruelty.

Why The Tail-Docking Of Dogs Should Be Prohibited was assembled to promote a bill now before the Scottish Executive which would prohibit cosmetic tail-docking.

Tail-docking dogs has already been banned in Britain, Sweden, and a few other places for long enough to produce a substantial

body of evidence, presented by Advocates for Animals, that banning the practice has no ill effect on dogs.

Pigs, sheep, horses, and even cattle are still routinely tail-docked in much of the world, however, mostly to mask the symptoms of other bad practices. For example, pigs are tail-docked because otherwise pigs who are too closely confined will bite each other's tails. Dairy cattle kept in confinement are sometimes tail-docked so that they won't flip manure while swishing their tails in the barn or milking parlor—but if they were given adequate outdoor time, and were not afflicted by flies, this would be much less a problem.

Although dogs rather than livestock are the focus of *Why The Tail-Docking Of Dogs Should Be Prohibited*, pain studies involving livestock are mentioned, making this handbook useful to anyone addressing any aspect of the tail-docking issue.

It may be downloaded from www.advocatesforanimals.org.uk/.

Cephalopods & Decapod Crustaceans: Their Capacity To Experience Pain & Suffering is apparently not available at the Advocates for Animals web site, as I was unable to find it. Summaries of pain studies comprise almost the entire publication.

Addressing suffering in species so far removed from humans might seem tactically premature, since much of the public still has difficulty understanding that tail-docking causes dogs to suffer, but relevant discussion occupied much of the lead feature in the January 22, 2006 edition of *The New York Times Magazine*. Examining the evolution of personality, author Charles Siebert extensively discussed studies of octopus personality done at the Seattle Aquarium since 1991 by staff scientist Roland Anderson and University of Lethbridge psychologist Jennifer Mather.

"Anderson and Mather's 1993 paper in the *Journal of Comparative Psychology*,



Crab. (Bonny Shah)

entitled 'Personalities of Octopuses,' was not only the first-ever documentation of personality in invertebrates," Siebert wrote. "It was the first time in anyone's memory that the term 'personality' had been applied to a nonhuman in a major psychology journal."

"In the years since Anderson and Mather's original paper," Siebert continued, "a whole new field of research has emerged known simply as 'animal personality.' Through close and repeated observations of different species in a variety of group settings and circumstances, scientists are finding that our own behavioral traits exist in varying degrees and dimensions among creatures across all the branches of life's tree."

Personality is a much more complex issue than simply possessing the ability to recognize and respond to pain. In basic form, personality appears to involve the ability to weigh the chance of suffering of pain against anticipation of more satisfactory outcomes.

Since the existence of personality in octopi now appears to be established beyond debate, any scientific question as to whether cephalopods and decapod crustaceans feel pain appears to have been settled by default. Unsettled is only the cultural question of whether or not humans will choose to respond to the pain of animals unlike ourselves.

Discovering that these animals have personality, and learning to recognize their individual differences, is a huge step toward reducing the emotional distance between species. Thereby, it is a huge step toward recognizing a moral obligation to mitigate or prevent their suffering. —Merritt Clifton

Making health decisions on behalf of our animal companions

by Shannon Fujimoto Nakaya, DVM

New World Library (14 Pamaron Way, Novato, CA 94949), 2005.
155 pages, paperback. \$13.95.

Have you ever wondered how a veterinarian feels when a someone rushes in with an animal and screams for help, then expects an instant and accurate diagnosis without giving any relevant patient history?

Veterinarian Shannon Fujimoto Nakaya emphasizes that, "Making health decisions on behalf of our animal companion begins with noticing when things are different..." She lists questions that should be asked of a vet when seeking a diagnosis. She notes that it is not unreasonable to ask your vet to explain things in terms that you understand, and also not unreasonable to get a second opinion.

Many people have difficulty making decisions when their animal is terminally ill. Complications can include the ability of

the caretaker to pay for treatment, whether the animal is responding to treatment, and how much pain the animal may be suffering, perhaps without showing unambiguous symptoms. Nakaya leads readers through a step-by-step decision-making process.

Nakaya shares her perspective on how to make the vet's job easier, the human/animal bond, healthy living for both humans and animals, graceful aging, coping with death, and the spiritual nature of animals.

Many scientists seem to lose their compassion on their way through university and managing a career. It is refreshing to encounter a vet whose 20 years on the job has not diminished her kindness and spirituality.

—Bev Pervan

<www.cannedlion.co.za>

Ivory Markets of Europe:

A survey in France, Germany, Italy, Spain & the U.K.

by Esmond Martin & Daniel Stiles

Save the Elephants (P.O. Box 54667, 00200 Nairobi, Kenya), 2005.
104 pages, paperback. No price listed.

Ivory Markets of Europe is the fourth and perhaps most startling in a series of regional reports on the elephant tusk ivory trade produced by geographer Esmond Martin and anthropologist Daniel Stiles since 2000.

Martin and Stiles began by looking at Africa, where most ivory originates. They found that ivory artifacts are still readily available at leading tourist destinations, despite the 1989 ivory trade moratorium imposed by the United Nations Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. The source of most of the ivory still available in Africa appears to be elephant poaching.

Next Martin and Stiles investigated the ivory markets of southern and eastern Asia, where the use and exchange of ivory artifacts is reputedly most entrenched. Again they found much ivory for sale, but they also found evidence that demand is declining, with the numbers of ivory artisans and quality of their work falling off parallel to the ivory supply. Despite ongoing ivory poaching, Martin and Stiles found, the ivory trade moratorium appears to be effective.

The ecologically sensitized elephant conservation donors of western Europe might believe that their home nations have relatively small roles in contemporary ivory trafficking.

This is generally true, but Martin and Stiles have established that "Germany greatly exceeds China, Japan, Cameroon, and Nigeria—all viewed as important ivory markets—in market scale and in number of ivory retail outlets. The U.K. also exceeds all but China of these countries in market scale, and it greatly surpasses China in number of retail outlets that sell ivory."

"The primary difference between them," Martin and Stiles continue, "is that the greatest proportion of the European ivory is pre-1989 in manufacture, and the ivory in China, Cameroon, and Nigeria is of recent date, most of it from poached elephants."

Historically, Europe was the primary destination for African elephant ivory.

Relatively little new ivory is entering Europe, but the residue of centuries of past acquisition now gluts European antique and curio shops.

Differences in taste in ivory artifacts, the difficulty of reworking finished items to suit the Asian market, and the relatively high value of the euro compared to most Asian currencies probably explain why the European surplus is not moving east, in economic competition with poached ivory.

Simply put, filling the remaining Asian demand with poached ivory is cheaper than developing a reworked ivory trade.

As Martin and Stiles indicate that ivory demand is falling almost everywhere, the longterm prospects for redeveloping an international ivory industry might seem poor. Yet South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, and Zimbabwe continue to stockpile ivory in hopes of reaping windfall profits when and if they can break the moratorium. Anticipation of money to be made selling ivory at some point in the near future appears to be involved in the South African National Park Service scheme to kill half of the elephants in Kruger National Park, as described in the December 2005 edition of *ANIMAL PEOPLE*.

Though windfall profits might never develop, there is the possibility that oversupply could drive the price of ivory down enough to create new demand among *nouveau riche* residents of some nations where until now, only the rich could afford it. Mass consumption of ivory might in turn re-stimulate poaching. —Merritt Clifton

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OBITUARIES

Harry Rowsell, 84, died on February 3, 2006. From 1968 to 1992 Rowsell served as founding director of the Canadian Council of Animal Care, formed to supervise animal welfare in laboratories. He also served as a member of the Scientists Center for Animal Welfare board of trustees, 1983-1986. The SCAW Rowsell Award is named in his honor. A veterinary pathologist, Rowsell witnessed the Atlantic Canada seal hunt in 1973, as a member of the Canadian Ministry of Fisheries' Seals & Sealing Committee. "It's a hell of a thing," he testified afterward. "Stop telling people to write letters to Canada and Norway," Rowsell advised activists. "Tell them instead to start a worldwide campaign against wearing fur." Rowsell "brought many reforms to Canada on animal experimentation, and on the use of animals in education. He was a great friend of [Animal Welfare Institute founder] Christine Stevens, and a major influence on me," *In The Name of Science* author Barbara Orlans told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**.

Prahlad Gowala, of Golaghat, Assam state, India, "died young on January 6, reporting against the wildlife crimes of so-called protectors who have turned predators," colleague Azam Siddiqui told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. Reported *The Hindu*, "Journalists sat in protest wearing black masks, boycotting the Kaziranga Elephant Festival," held a few days later, "demanding justice for the murder of Goala, a correspondent for the regional daily *Asomiya Khaba* in Thuramukh. Married and the father of a 14-month-old girl, Goala was run down by a car while traveling on a motorcycle. He was then repeatedly stabbed by several men and died of head injuries." Nambar Reserve senior forest ranger K.Z. Zaman Jinnah "was arrested on suspicion of hiring men to kill Goala," *The Hindu* added. "Jinnah made death threats against Goala and his family after Goala wrote a series of articles a week before, accusing him of corruption and misconduct." *The Telegraph*, of Calcutta, reported that "The journalist was knocked down by Jinnah's vehicle."

Vaughn Brady, 71, of Armstrong Township, Pennsylvania, on February 15 tried to rescue a calf who had fallen through ice on a pond, but died with the calf when his safety rope pulled loose.

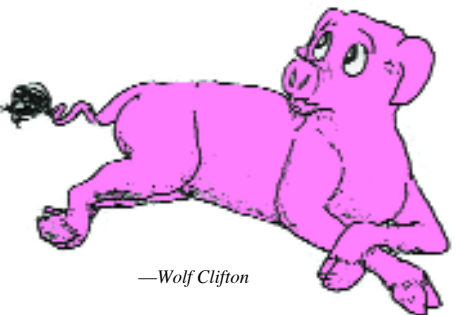


Coretta Scott King, 78, widowed by the 1968 assassination of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., died on January 30, 2006, in Atlanta. After the assassination, Mrs. King raised their four children, including son Dexter Scott King, now also a prominent civil rights leader, and continued as many of her late husband's projects as she could. Through the influence of comedian/activist and animal advocate Dick Gregory, Dexter Scott King became a vegetarian in 1987. Mrs. King followed him into veganism in 1995. Longtime friend Barbara A. Reynolds and others close to her emphasized her vegan beliefs in published remembrances.

James W. Fitzgerald, 88, died of cancer on January 16 in New London, Connecticut. "At a cocktail party in Annapolis in 1964, Fitzgerald mentioned to a Navy admiral that dolphins, who rely on natural sonar for hearing and navigation, might prove useful in warfare," *Washington Post* staff writer Joe Holley recounted. "The admiral introduced him to a CIA specialist in underwater combat. As Fitzgerald's wife recalled, the CIA sent him to Key West, where he set up a classified laboratory to study whether dolphin hydrodynamics could be applied to the design of submarines, torpedoes, and missiles, and whether the animals could be trained to perform missions. Working with a half-dozen dolphins, he and his associates learned that dolphins could be used to seek underwater mines, attach explosives and eavesdropping devices on enemy ships, and help divers recover lost items."

John L. Behler, 62, died from congestive heart failure on January 31, 2006, at home in Amawalk, New York. Behler joined the Bronx Zoo staff in 1970, becoming curator of herpetology in 1976. In 1979 Behler and F. Wayne King co-authored the *National Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Reptiles & Amphibians*. "Behler made impassioned efforts to preserve rare species of tortoises in Madagascar as well as turtles and alligators in China, even as he advocated for less colorful creatures found in ponds and bogs in New York State," recalled Jeremy Pearce of *The New York Times*. "In the early 1990s he warned about the increasing trade in wild Asian turtles in China," but instead of working to discourage turtle consumption, Behler endorsed farming turtles. Turtle farming now provides legal cover to poachers, who are as active as ever, typically now marketing their prey as "farmed."

Roberta Keese, 63, died after a long illness on February 3 in Randolph, Massachusetts. Keese founded the no-kill Hilltop Humane society in 1965, and headed it for the rest of her life. "Back in 1991 when I was launching the Neponset Valley Humane Society, Roberta was a huge help," recalled Bonney Brown of Alley Cat Allies. "She was an inspiration and truly a mentor to me."



Peter Benchley, 65, died at home in Princeton, New Jersey on February 11 from idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis. The grandson of humorist Robert Benchley and son of Nathaniel Benchley, author of historical books for children, Peter Benchley worked for the *Washington Post* and *Newsweek*, spent two years as a speechwriter for President Lyndon Johnson, then published his best-selling first novel *Jaws*, about a serial-killing great white shark, in 1974. He later co-authored the screenplay for the Steven Spielberg film *Jaws*. Benchley spent much of the rest of his life as an advocate of sharks, hosting television programs, writing for *National Geographic*, and serving on the Environmental Defense national council. "He cared very much about sharks. He spent most of his life trying to explain to people that if you are in the ocean, you're in the shark's territory," said his wife of 41 years, Wendy Benchley.

Kevin Li, 50, who for the last 10 years of his life led efforts to restore purple martins to the Seattle area, died from an apparent heart attack on January 28 while scuba diving near the Keystone ferry dock on Whidbey Island, Washington. "While in high school, he worked in the invertebrate lab at the Smithsonian Institution," wrote *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* reporter Gordy Holt. "He went on to participate in an Audubon Society puffin recovery project in Maine. He counted fish in the Bering Sea, worked on a lizard project in Honduras, and attached himself to a shrimp program in El Salvador."

Solomon Mthembu, 33, a game ranger at the Thanda Game Reserve in Mkhunze, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, was killed on February 18 by a raging elephant. Although Mthembu and two fellow rangers who were on patrol with him all had weapons, none fired them, said Thanda superintendent Jay Naicker.

Catherine "Dodie" Carias, 56, on January 12, 2006 "allegedly robbed a bank in Loveland [Colorado] and led officers on a 15-minute chase down country backroads, across the Larimer-Boulder County line," Chris Barge of the *Rocky Mountain News* reported. "It ended when she pulled over, brandished a toy pistol that appeared to be a revolver, and was shot dead." Carias, an alleged puppy miller whose American Kennel Club registration was cancelled, "was jailed last year for 60 days after authorities found she had gone out of town, abandoning 84 Labrador retrievers, 54 of them so sick they had to be euthanized," Burge recalled.

MEMORIALS

In memory of Roberta Keese, a tireless advocate & caregiver.
—Bonney Brown

In memory of my mother, 3/8/05, and grandmother, 3-30-05.
—Kathryn Kovach

In memory of Ellie Mae, beloved cat of Eloise & George Allen.
—Judy Meincke



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Gina Gracio of Escondido, California, founder of San Diego Pet Rescue in Poway, was killed along with two small dogs in a fiery January 12 head-on collision in Foster, just south of Poway, when a tractor/trailer rig made a sudden stop and jackknifed into her lane, hitting her car twice and flipping it over. Gracio volunteered for other local organizations for four years before starting San Diego Pet Rescue in 2002.

Mack "Jack" Slye Crippen, 77, died on February 9, 2006 from pneumonia in Reston, Virginia. By turns a dairy farmer, cattle auctioneer, land developer, banker, and landfill operator, Crippen took up fox hunting and steeplechase racing as he made his fortune. He started the Reston Pet-a-Pet Zoo, later known as the Reston Animal Park, in the late 1970s, then sold it in 1980. After a 1999 relocation, it became the Leesburg Animal Park. Forced to close a landfill he owned in Great Falls, Crippen in 1988 turned the site into his second roadside zoo, called Lockmoor Park. "He served for five years on the Fairfax County animal control board," recalled *Washington Post* staff writer Patricia Sullivan, but "Fairfax's animal warden hauled him into court because he lacked required permits to own and breed exotic animals." Crippen and his zoos were unflatteringly depicted in *Animal Underworld*, by Alan Green (1999).

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